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Montana Winter Wheat Seedings for 2002 Crop Year up 8 Percent

For immediate release: January 11, 2002
For more information please contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana producers seeded 1.4 million acres of winter wheat this fall for the 2002 crop year, up 100,000 acres from the 2001 crop, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. While the acres seeded are up from the 2001 crop, acreage is down 100,000 acres from 1999 and is down 370,000 acres or 21 percent from the 10 year average of 1.77 million acres planted.

Winter wheat seeding progressed rapidly as dry conditions this fall were favorable for getting into fields. By the end of October, 98% of the winter wheat acres were seeded. Emergence was very slow after planting and progressed to 74% emerged by the end of October. There are reports that some winter wheat didn't come up at all or was spotty. Producers are optimistic that adequate moisture will come either during winter or this spring or else conditions will be similar to last year's crop disaster. Moisture received in the North Central and Central areas of the state since October 1 has been very poor with most all stations receiving less than 50 percent of normal moisture. Many stations have received 25 percent or less of normal precipitation.

The United States winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2002 is estimated at 41.0 million acres. This is down fractionally from 2001 and is the lowest level since 1971. Seeding began last August and advanced well ahead of the previous year's slow pace throughout the fall. Seeding should finish sometime next month in California. Nearly all of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1. Most remaining intended area is in the Southeast and California. Hard Red Winter wheat seeded area is about 29.3 million acres, up 1 percent from 2001. Significant acreage increases in Texas, Oklahoma, and Montana more than offset a large acreage decline in Kansas. Texas and Oklahoma are rebounding from lower acreages last year when dry conditions reduced seedings. This is the first time since 1990 that wheat acreage has increased in Oklahoma. Acreage continues to decline in Kansas, where seedings have not increased since 1996, and is currently at the lowest level since 1957. Planting was complete in Kansas by the second week of November. Seeding conditions in Colorado were generally favorable; however, conditions turned dry in late fall leaving little soil moisture before dormancy. Soil moisture supplies were mostly adequate to short during planting in Nebraska.

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December 1, 2001 Grain Stocks

For immediate release: January 11, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on December 1, 2001 were 108.9 million bushels, down 19 percent from December 1, 2000, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. All wheat stocks were at their lowest level since 99.0 million bushels were in storage on December 1, 1988. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 86.0 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 25.8 million bushels, virtually unchanged from a year ago. All spring wheat stocks, at 79.1 million bushels, were down 14 percent from last year and accounted for 73 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 29.8 million bushels, down 39 percent from last year and the smallest December 1 stocks since records began in 1971. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 11.4 million bushels, unchanged from last year. All wheat disappearance for the September - November 2001 quarter was 20.9 million bushels, compared with 35.5 million for the same quarter last year.

Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 2001 were 23.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 17.0 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was virtually unchanged from a year ago at 6.6 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.0 million bushels, down 21 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 1.9 million bushels down 21 percent from 2.4 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm was down 25 percent from last year to 0.09 million bushels.

The on-farm storage capacity of all storage facilities in Montana, normally used for storing grain, was estimated to be 330 million bushels, unchanged from a year ago. There were 171 off-farm storage facilities in Montana on December 1, 2000. The storage capacity of off farm facilities was 66.74 million bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago.

In the United States, all wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2001 totaled 1.62 billion bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 518 million bushels, down 17 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.11 billion bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2001 disappearance is 532 million bushels, down 3 percent from the same period a year earlier. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 2001 totaled 75.7 million bushels, down 27 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 49.6 million bushels, are down 31 percent from December 1, 2000. Off-farm stocks totaled 26.1 million bushels, down 19 percent from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2001 disappearance of 21.4 million bushels is up 13 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions in the U.S. on December 1, 2001 totaled 195 million bushels, down 15 percent from December 1, 2000. On-farm stocks are estimated at 92.4 million bushels, 17 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 103 million bushels, are 13 percent below December 2000. Indicated disappearance during the September - November 2001 quarter totaled 50.4 million bushels, down 23 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all U.S. positions on December 1, 2001 totaled 114 million bushels, 21 percent below December 1, 2000. Of the total stocks on hand, 58.1 million bushels were stored in on-farm facilities, 33 percent below the same quarter last year. Stocks held in off-farm storage facilities totaled 56.1 million bushels, 2 percent less than a year earlier. Indicated disappearance from all positions during the September - November 2001 quarter totaled 2.17 million bushels, compared to 6.24 million bushels during the same period a year ago.

Nationally, corn stocks in all positions on December 1, 2001 totaled 8.26 billion bushels, down 3 percent from December 1, 2000. Of the total stocks, 5.28 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.99 billion bushels, are up 0.3 percent from the previous year. The September - November 2001 indicated disappearance is 3.14 billion bushels, compared with 3.10 billion bushels during the same period last year.

The United States on-farm storage capacity totaled 11.2 billion bushels on December 1, 2001, down slightly from December 1, 2000. Iowa leads all States in on-farm storage capacity with 1.65 billion bushels followed by Minnesota with 1.23 billion bushels; Illinois with 1.21 billion bushels; Nebraska, 1.02 billion bushels; and North Dakota with 720 million bushels. The top five States account for 52 percent of the Nation's on-farm storage capacity. On-farm grain storage capacity includes all bins, cribs, sheds, and other structures normally used to store whole grains or oilseeds located on farms.

Capacity of off-farm commercial grain storage totaled 8.42 billion bushels in the United States on December 1, 2001, up 1 percent from December 1, 2000. Seventeen States and New England showed increases from a year earlier, 22 States recorded decreases in capacity, and three States were unchanged. Illinois continued to lead all States in off-farm storage capacity, followed by Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas. The top five States accounted for 52 percent of the Nation's off-farm storage capacity on December 1, 2001

Off-farm storage facilities totaled 9,695 on December 1, 2001, down 1 percent from December 1, 2000. States with the largest number of facilities are Illinois with 995; Kansas, 803; Minnesota, 623; Texas, 530; and Nebraska had 519.

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2001 Annual Late Season Crops, Pulse Crops and Oilseeds Summary

For immediate release: January 11, 2002
For more information contact: Tom Chard, John Gibbons, or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

The results of the end of year surveys conducted by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service is summarized for late season crops, pulse crops, hay, and oilseeds. There were no changes made to any of the small grain crop estimates previously released on September 28, 2001.

LATE SEASON CROPS

Montana producers planted 65,000 acres of **corn** in 2001, up 5,000 acres from last year, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Due to the lack of feed supplies in the state, producers planted more corn acres for silage this year. Acres **harvested for grain** was 13,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from last year's revised estimate. The average yield was 148.0 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from last year. Grain production declined 14 percent from a year ago to 1.924 million bushels due to fewer acres harvested for grain. Acres for **silage of corn** harvested rose 9,000 acres from last year to 51,000 acres. Yield averaged 22 tons per acre, up 1 ton from a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana planted 57,400 acres and harvested 53,500 acres in 2001. Harvested acres is down 1,700 acres from last year's crop. There was a large number of acres unharvested this year due to acres being enrolled in the PIK program. Yields decreased 2.4 tons from last year to average 21.5 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.15 million tons, down 13 percent from the previous year.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.04 million cwt, down 13 percent from last year. Producers harvested 9,500 acres compared with 11,300 in 2000. Yields increased 10 cwt. per acre from a year ago to 320 cwt. per acre.

All hay harvested in Montana was up 450,000 acres from last year, to 2.45 million acres. All hay production was 4.45 million tons, up 25 percent or 890,000 tons from a year ago. Even with the increase in harvested acreage due to CRP and grain crops being cut for hay, this is the second lowest production in Montana since 1988. The 2000 harvest was the lowest since 1988. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage was 1.45 million acres, up 250,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.1 tons per acre, which is unchanged from the previous year. **Other hay** harvested acreage was 1.0 million, up 200,000 acres from 2000. The average yield was 1.4 tons per acre compared with 1.3 tons per acre last year.

Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 3.60 million tons on December 1, up 14 percent from last year. Montana hay producers **seeded** an estimated 120,000 acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2001, 10,000 acres less than last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

U.S. corn grain production is estimated at 9.51 billion bushels, down 4 percent from the revised 9.92 billion bushels in 2000. This is the fourth largest crop behind 1994's record production of 10.1 billion bushels followed by 2000's and 1998's production. The U.S. grain yield of 138.2 bushels per acre, the second highest yield on record, is up 0.2 bushel from November and 1.3 bushels from 2000.

U.S. **sugarbeet** production is estimated at 25.8 million tons, 1 percent below the November 1 forecast and 21 percent below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States harvested 1.24 million acres, slightly less than the November estimate and 9 percent below last year's 1.37 million acres. The yield is estimated at 20.7 tons per acre, equal to the November forecast, but 3.0 tons below the 2000 yield.

U.S. production of **fall potatoes** for 2001 is estimated at 401 million cwt, down 14 percent from 2000 and the smallest fall crop since 1993. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is down 8 percent from 2000. The average yield is estimated at 367 cwt per acre, a drop of 25 cwt from last year.

Growers in the U.S. seeded 3.26 million acres of **alfalfa** and **alfalfa mixtures** during 2001. This is up 6 percent from the 2000 seeded acreage of 3,065,000 acres. The new seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures will normally be harvested for dry hay for the first time in the year following the planting.

In the U.S. **all hay** production for 2001 is estimated at 157 million tons, down 3 percent from the October 1 forecast but up 3 percent from the 2000 total. Acreage harvested, at 63.5 million acres, is down less than 1 percent from the October forecast but up 6 percent from 2000. The average yield, at 2.47 tons per acre, is down 0.07 ton from both the October forecast and the previous year.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures production in 2001 totaled 80.3 million tons in the U.S. , down 2 percent from the October forecast and fractionally below the 2000 total. Harvested acreage, at 23.8 million acres, is up less than 1 percent from October 1 and up 3 percent from the previous year. Yields averaged 3.37 tons per acre, down 0.07 ton from the October 1 forecast and 0.11 ton below the 2000 yield.

U.S. **all other hay** production in 2001 totaled 76.4 million tons, down 5 percent from the October 1 forecast but up 7 percent from the 2000 total. Area for harvest, at 39.7 million acres, is down 1 percent from the October 1 forecast but 8 percent above last year. Average yield, at 1.93 tons per acre, is down from 1.95 tons per acre in 2000.

Stocks of **all hay** on U.S. farms December 1, 2001 totaled 111 million tons, 5 percent above the stocks on farms December 1, 2000. The 20 States with increases in hay stocks more than offset stocks decreases in 27 States. Increases in hay stocks in the Gulf Coast, central Great Plains and southern Corn Belt States in 2001 can be attributed to increases in hay production.

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PULSE CROPS

Montana's **dry bean** growers produced 332,000 cwt. in 2001, down 154,000 cwt. from 2000. Growers harvested 24,000 acres with a yield of 13.8 cwt. per acre compared with last year's 34,800 acres harvested with a yield of 14.0 cwt. per acre.

Pinto bean production for Montana in 2001 is set at 200,000 cwt., which is 40 percent below last year's figure. Harvested acreage, at 10,000, is 24 percent lower than the previous year. The yield was 2,000 pounds per acre, which is 400 pounds less than last year. Decreases were attributed to reductions in the availability of water for irrigation.

Montana's final production estimate for **garbanzo beans** was 127,000 cwt for 2001, which is 15 percent lower than last year. Harvested area was 13,500 acres, down 7,000 acres from last year. Because of the drought, many producers chose to graze or hay their fields. The yield was 940 pounds per acre, up from last year's estimate of 730 pounds per acre.

Dry pea production for 2001 in Montana was 294,000 cwt., up 26 percent from 2000. Planted and harvested acreage are estimated at 31,000 and 21,000 acres, respectively. In 2000, growers planted 28,000 acres and harvested 24,000. Average yield is set at 14.0 cwt. per acre, which is 4.3 cwt. better than last year.

Montana's 2001 production of **lentils** was 220,000 cwt., up 5 percent from 2000. Planted area is 22,000 acres and harvested acres are set at 20,000. The 2000 acreage numbers are 22,000 and 21,000, respectively. The average yield was 11.0 cwt. per acre, or 100 pounds more than in 2000.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is estimated at 19.5 million cwt for 2001, down 26 percent from last year and 41 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest dry bean production since 1988, when production was 19.3 million cwt. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.24 million acres, 23 percent below last year and 34 percent below 1999. The average yield is estimated at 1,572 pounds per acre, down 71 pounds from last year.

Production of **dry edible peas** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington is estimated at 3.78 million cwt for 2001, down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast but 8 percent above 2000. Area harvested, at 196,800 acres, is 2 percent above the previous forecast and 10 percent above 2000. Average yield, at 1,920 pounds per acre, decreased 46 pounds from the November 1 forecast and was 35 pounds below 2000.

Production of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 2.90 million cwt for 2001, down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast and 4 percent below 2000. Planted acres, at 201,000, are unchanged from the previous forecast but 7 percent below 2000. Harvested acres, at 197,000, are 1 percent below the November 1 forecast and 8 percent below last year. Average yield per acre, at 1,471 pounds, is 9 pounds below November's forecast but 56 pounds above last year.

OILSEEDS

Montana's **flaxseed** production for 2001 was 180,000 bushels, 16,000 bushels below last year's figure. Planted and harvested acreage were 14,000 and 12,000, respectively. In 2000, growers planted 16,000 acres and harvested 14,000. The average yield for 2001 was 15.0 bushels per acre, one bushel better that the previous year. Production of **mustard seed** in Montana during 2001 was 8.5 million pounds compared with 7.0 million in 2000. Acres planted are set at 11,000 and acres harvested at 10,000. Those numbers were 12,000 and 10,000, respectively in 2000. Yields averaged 850 pounds per acre this year, which is 150 pounds per acre better that 2000. Montana **canola** growers planted 58,000 acres in 2001, 7000 acres less than the previous year. Out of those that were planted, 49,500 acres were harvested, which averaged 910 pounds per acre. In 2000, 58,000 acres of canola were harvested, and the crop had an average yield of 960 pounds per acre. Total production was 45.1 million pounds, which is 19 percent less than last year. Growers produced 23.8 million pounds of **safflower** in Montana during 2001. They planted an estimated 31,000 acres and harvested 28,000 acres. Average yields were set at 850 pounds per acre. The 2000 crop produced over 30 million pounds from 42,000 planted and 39,000 harvested acres. The yield was 770 lbs per acre in 2000.

Montana's 2001 **all sunflower** production was set at 740,000 pounds this year, well below the 3.0 million pounds produced in 2000. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 2,500 and 2,000 respectively. Those numbers were 5,500 and 4,100 respectively in 2000. The average yield is estimated at 370 pounds per acre, compared to the 740 pounds per acre garnished last year. Drought conditions in the state heavily impacted sunflowers in 2001.

U.S. production of **flaxseed** in 2001 totaled 11.5 million bushels, up 7 percent from the previous year. The yield is estimated at 19.8 bushels, down 1.0 bushel from the record high yield in 2000. A total of 585,000 acres planted is up 9 percent from 2000. Area harvested, at 578,000 acres, is a 12 percent increase from 2000. In North Dakota, the leading flaxseed State, production totaled 10.9 million bushels, up 9 percent from 2000. **Safflower** production in the U.S., at 242 million pounds, is down 14 percent from 2000. **Mustard** seed production, at 41.1 million pounds, is 11 percent above the previous year. **Rapeseed** production totaled 4.05 million pounds, down 30 percent from 2000.

U.S. **Canola** production in 2001 reached a record high, at 2.00 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous record in 2000. Canola yield, at 1,374 pounds, increased 40 pounds above last year. The yield increase more than offset the decline in harvested acres resulting in a record production. Area planted to canola is estimated at 1.49 million acres, 4 percent below last year's acreage. Harvested area for canola, at 1.46 million acres, is down 3 percent from 2000. The 2001 **sunflower** production totaled 3.48 billion pounds nationally, 2 percent below the 2000 production. The estimated yield per acre, at 1,349 pounds, increased 10 pounds from 2000. Planted area, at 2.65 million acres is down 7 percent from last year. Harvested acres, at 2.58 million, decreased 3 percent from last year.

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Chicken Inventory and Egg Production Up In Montana and U.S.

For Immediate Release: January 29, 2002
For More Information Please Contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-.2612

There were 480,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 2001, up 4 percent from last year, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The December 1, 2001 inventory included 340,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 72,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 67,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2001 was $1.44 million, up 4 percent from last year. The average value per bird, at $3.00, remained unchanged from last year.

Montana chickens produced 95 million eggs during the year, up 13 percent from last year. The state had an average of 321,000 layers in 2001, up 10 percent from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 296 eggs, up 2 percent from the previous year.

The U.S. total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2001 (excluding commercial broilers) was 441 million birds, up 1 percent from last year. Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2001 totaled a record high 85.6 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year's total of 84.4 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 72.7 billion eggs, increased 2 percent from 2000. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, decreased slightly.

Layer numbers during 2001 averaged 335 million, up 2 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2001 was 256 eggs, down slightly from the 2000 average of 257. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 2001, totaled 381 million, up 3 percent from December 1, 2000. Of the 381 million potential layers, 89 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2001 was $1.07 billion, up 1 percent from December 1, 2000. The average value decreased from $2.44 per bird on December 1, 2000, to $2.42 per bird on December 1, 2001.

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Montana and United States Grazing Rates Increase

For immediate release: January 31, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

The average grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land rose significantly for all methods in 2001, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The shortage of pasture and the effects of the prolonged drought was a big factor in the increases this year. The average amount paid for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was $14.90 per month, up 80 cents from last year. Cattle producers paid $16.70 per cow-calf pair in 2001, up $1.10 from the previous year. The average per head rate was $16.00 per month, up $1.30 from last year.

In the 17 States that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was $11.90 per month in 2001, up 40 cents from the previous year. Cow-calf rates averaged $13.90 per month, up 20 cents and per head rates averaged $12.40 per month, up 50 cents from 2000.

All grazing fees are for privately, owned non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The average AUM rate includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM basis using the following formula (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

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Agricultural Prices Received for December

For immediate release: January 31, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

December full month crop prices were generally higher compared with November 2001, according to Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.14 per bushel, up $0.02 from November; spring wheat was $0.02 lower at $3.13 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.06 to $4.03 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.06 to $2.05 per bushel. Feed barley prices were up $0.01 from the previous month to $1.96, and malt barley prices were up $0.07 to $2.99 per bushel.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay at $95.00 per ton, unchanged from the previous month, but all other hay increased $4.00 per ton to $91.00 per ton. The mid-January winter wheat price averaged $3.10 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.16; durum wheat was $3.95; oats was $2.05; feed barley was $1.92; and malt barley averaged $3.08.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were mostly higher compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $3.50 to $86.00 per cwt, but cows were up $0.90 to $34.80. The average price for calves rose $1.20 to $95.40 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $7.70 to $33.30 per cwt and lamb prices rose $12.00 to $63.70 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.60 per cwt from last month to $15.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $85.60 per cwt.; cows averaged $35.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $102.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $14.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was $2.79, down $0.02 , spring wheat was $2.96, up $0.05; durum wheat was $3.45, up $0.37; the all barley price was $2.16 up $0.15, and steer and heifer prices were $68.60, up $0.80 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $2.89 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.96 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.28 per bushel, all wheat was $2.94 per bushel, malt barley was $2.56 per bushel, feed barley was $1.77 per bushel, and all barley was $2.06. Steer and heifer prices were $ 70.50 per cwt, cow prices were $37.10, calves were $100.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $36.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.623 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January was 96, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the December Index. Price increases for tomatoes, lettuce, cattle, and hogs more than offset decreased prices for cotton, broccoli, turkeys, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for cattle, corn, soybeans, and hogs more than offset decreased marketings of tobacco, grapes, cotton, and milk. Compared with January 2001, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Higher prices for lettuce, broilers, oranges, and potatoes offset lower prices for cattle, soybeans, rice, and onions.

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Ag Economic Surveys Will Measure Farm Financial Health

For immediate release: February 1, 2002
For more information contact: Peggy Stringer or Steven Hirsch at 1-800-835-2612

Montana farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to "let their voice be heard" by participating in the 2001 Agricultural Resource Management Study. This study provides vital statistics about the economic condition of production agriculture. Most importantly, these statistics are used by members of the agricultural community and their legislators when making important decisions that impact the future of America's farmers and ranchers.

When Montana producers are facing the third and fourth years of drought, information from the Agricultural Resource Management Study provides the necessary data for policy makers to understand the true economic impact to Montana's farmers and ranchers. This is just one example of local benefits resulting from these surveys. Data collected will present the only objective, true picture of the financial well-being of Montana farm operators and will be the last financial picture presented to Congress as they begin work on the next Farm Bill. These data are also a resource when policymakers determine Federal assistance. In 2000, direct government payments totaled $22.9 billion dollars.

Agricultural producers chosen to participate in these surveys will represent 100 fellow producers, and will therefore make an important contribution to the overall welfare of America's farmers and ranchers. All individual data collected are held strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Only statistical totals are published for selected geographic regions and the Nation.

Results from these surveys will be used by farm and ranch operators, farm organizations, commodity groups, lenders, university researchers, news media, local USDA agencies, farm suppliers, and others to compute prices paid, evaluate economic challenges facing America's food and fiber producers, determine the need for farm assistance, measure the cost of agricultural production, and assess the ability for producers to maintain sustainable farms.

Farm Production Expenditures will be released July 18, 2002. For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/mt or call 1-800-835-2612.

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Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/.

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NEWS

Montana and U.S. January 1, 2002 Cattle and Calf Inventory Down

For immediate release: February 1, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard II or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was down 4 percent from a year ago to 2.45 million head on January 1, 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Prolonged drought, poor pasture and range conditions, and continued tight feed supplies have caused producers to cut back their herds and, in many cases, to liquidate the entire herd. Inventories of beef cows that have calved, beef cow replacements, and calves weighing less than 500 lbs were all significantly reduced this year.

The inventory of beef cows that had calved on January 1, 2002 was down 5 percent from a year ago to 1.451 million head. This is the lowest inventory of beef cows since 1991 when there were 1.396 million beef cows on hand. The number of milk cows in the state was unchanged from year ago at 19,000 head. There were 1.55 million calves born during 2001, down 4 percent from the previous year.

Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were down 8 percent from the previous year to 370,000 head. Milk heifer replacements increased 3,000 head from last year to 13,000 head. The number of other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, increased 1 percent from last year to 177,000 head.

The inventory of steers weighing 500 lbs or more, rebounded 17 percent from last year's low inventory to 245,000 head. The inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 75,000 head, was down 17 percent from last year. This is the lowest inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs on record for January 1. Inventory of bulls, weighing 500 pounds or more, dropped 9 percent from last year to 100,000 head. The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter rebounded from last year's low inventory. The inventory of cattle on feed was up 17 percent from a year ago to 70,000 head.

There were 13,300 operations in Montana during 2001 with one or more head, down 8 percent from last year. The number of beef cow operations with one or more beef cows decreased 7 percent to 11,900, while the number of operations with one or more milk cows remain unchanged at 650.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2002, totaled 96.7 million head, 1 percent below the 97.3 million on January 1, 2001 and 2 percent below the 98.2 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.2 million, were 1 percent below both the 42.6 million on January 1, 2001 and the 42.8 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.1 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2001 and January 1, 2000. Milk cows, at 9.11 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2001 and two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2002 and the change from January 1, 2001, are as follows:

All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, down slightly.

Beef replacement heifers, 5.56 million, down slightly.

Milk replacement heifers, 4.06 million, up slightly.

Other heifers, 10.1 million, down 1 percent.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, up 2 percent.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.24 million, down 1 percent.

Calves under 500 pounds, 15.8 million, down 3 percent.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.9 million, down 2 percent.

The 2001 United States calf crop was estimated at 38.3 million head, down 1 percent from both 2000 and 1999. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.1 million, down 1 percent from both 2000 and 1999.

The number of operations in United States with cattle totaled 1.05 million during 2001, down 2 percent from 2000 and 4 percent below 1999. Beef cow operations in 2001 were down 2 percent from 2000 and 4 percent below 1999. Milk cow operations were 7 percent below last year and 12 percent below two years ago. The three operation classes, cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and the 1-49 size group for beef cows.

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January 1, 2002 Sheep Inventory and 2001 Wool Production

For immediate release: February 1, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard II or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory set a new record low at 335,000 head on January 1, 2002, down 7 percent from last year, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Drought, unstable prices, and predators in 2001 were key factors in the continued decline.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers decreased 30,000 head from last year to 300,000 head. Ewes one year and older were down 12 percent to 232,000 head. Rams one year and older, at 8,000 head, were down 1,000 head from the previous year. Replacement lambs, at 60,000 head, were up 4,000 head from a year ago. The 2001 lamb crop was 340,000 head, a decrease of 7 percent from the 2000 lamb crop.

There were 35,000 market sheep and lambs on hand January 1. Only 1,000 head were market sheep. Of the 34,000 total market lambs, 6 percent weighed less than 65 pounds, 20 percent weighed 65-84 pounds, 53 percent were in the 85-105 pound category, and 21 percent were over 105 pounds. There were 1,800 sheep and lamb operations with 1 or more head in Montana during 2001, 200 less than a year ago.

Montana wool growers produced 3.0 million pounds of wool during 2001, down 10 percent from 2000. The 2001 average price per pound of wool increased 8 cents to 45 cents per pound, which increased the value of all wool produced by 9 percent for a total value of $1.3 million dollars. The total head shorn decreased 8 percent from 2000 to 318,000 head. The average fleece weight decreased from 9.6 pounds in 2000 to 9.4 pounds in 2001.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2002, totaled 6.69 million head, down 4 percent from 2001 and 5 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002, down 1 percent from 4.97 million head on January 1, 2001. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.98 million head, were 3 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2002, totaled 1.77 million head, down 11 percent from January 1, 2001. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-five percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 31 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2001 lamb crop of 4.50 million head was down 3 percent from 2000 and established a new record low. The 2001 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2001, compared with 109 in 2000.

The number of operations with sheep during 2001 totaled 65,120, down 1 percent from 2000 and 3 percent from 1999.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2001 was 43.0 million pounds, down 7 percent from 2000. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.69 million head, down 7 percent from 2000. The average price paid for wool sold in 2001 was $0.36 per pound for a total value of $15.3 million dollars, down slightly from $15.4 million dollars in 2000.

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Alfalfa Seed Production Down 36 Percent From 2000

For immediate release: February 13, 2002
For more information please contact: Peggy Stringer or John Gibbons at 1-800-835-2612.

Alfalfa seed production for 2001 was estimated at 3.30 million pounds, down 1.88 million pounds from 2000. Harvested acreage, at 9,000 acres, was down from 19,000 acres in 2000. The state average yield was estimated at 373 pounds per acre, up from 273 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 477 pounds per acre, up from 391 pounds per acre in 2000 and non-irrigated yields averaged 44 pounds per acre, down 47 pounds per acre from last year.

Producers used an average of 2.1 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 2001, compared with 1.5 gallons per acre in 2000. Leaf cutter bees were used on 84% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 3.1 gallons per acre and 21% of the reported non-irrigated acres at the rate of 2.7 gallons per acre. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees produced an average of 52% more seed per acre than those that did not use bees to pollinate their crop.

Proprietary varieties made up 88 percent of this year's production, the same as last year. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 11 percent of the production and common certified varieties represented 1 percent.

The average price received for the 2001 crop was $1.27 per pound, up 8 cents from 2000's average price.

Montana's south-central district continued to produce most of the state's alfalfa seed with 51.3% of total production and the north-central district is the second largest production area with 26.7 %.

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2001 Crop Values

For immediate release: February 13, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

The value of Montana's 2001 **all wheat** crop fell 23 percent from 2000 to $316.7 million. Total production was down 29 percent, while the season average price increased 28 cents per bushel. The 2001 season average price for all wheat was $3.30 per bushel compared with $3.02 last season.

The estimated value of Montana's **winter wheat** crop decreased 52 percent from last year to $61.2 million. The preliminary season average price was up 33 cents to $3.20 per bushel. **Spring wheat**'s value of production was estimated at $209.8 million, down 11 percent from 2000. The season average price increased 17 cents to $3.20, but with 2001 production being the smallest since 1990 the overall crop value was reduced. **Durum wheat's** season average price increased 33 cents from 2000 to $3.85. The total crop value of $45.7 million was down 1 percent from 2000 and is the second highest durum wheat value of production on record.

Total value of production for **barley** was estimated at $79.7 million, down 12 percent from the previous year. The 2001 season average price, at $2.70, was up 32 cents from 2000, but significantly lower production in 2001 resulted in the lower production value.

The season average price for **all hay** increased $5.00 from last year to $90.50 per ton. The value of production was up 33 percent to $397.2 million. **Alfalfa hay's** 2001 season average price was estimated at $92.50, up $6.00 from last year while **other hay's** season average price increased $4.50 to $82.50.

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Wheat, Barley, and Oat County Estimates for 2001 Now Available

For immediate release: February 19, 2002
For more information please contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

County estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops as well as crops that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates are estimated by practice of irrigated and non-irrigated only. These estimates are available on our website http:// www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

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Farm, Ranches and Land in Farms Declined in 2001

For immediate release: February 22, 2002
For more information contact: Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

The number of farms and ranches in Montana declined to 26,600 during 2001, 1,000 less than a year earlier, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The farms and ranches are sub-grouped by economic sales classes which give a clearer picture of where the changes occurred. There were 11,000 farms in the $1,000 to $9,999 economic sales class, up from 10,400 farms last year. Although many producers in this class left agriculture altogether, the total number of operators increased due to poor economic conditions in 2001. The next economic sales class, $10,000 to $99,999, shows 9,200 farms in 2001 compared with 10,800 in 2000 and the largest economic sales class of $100,000 or more was unchanged from 2000 with 6,400 farms. The land in farms and ranches is estimated at 56.5 million acres, down 0.2 million acres from 2000. The economic sales breakdown of land in farm and ranches follows: $1,000 to $9,999 - 3.9 million acres compared with 4.3 million in 2000; $10,000 to $99,999 - 14.0 million acres, down from 16.4 million last year; $100,000 or more of sales - 38.6 million acres, up significantly from the 36.0 million acres in 2000. These numbers show that very small producers became less common and that the value of sales declined significantly in all groups which moved producers into lower economic sales classes. The acreage increase in the largest economic sales class reflects the consolidation of operations that were necessary to compete in today's agricultural environment.

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2001 is estimated at 2.16 million, down 0.7 percent from 2000. The decline in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 economic class. This is the second largest decline in farms and ranches since the 1.4% drop in 1991. Total land in farms, at 941.2 million acres, declined 0.2 percent or 1.9 million acres from last year. The average size of farm increased 2 acres from 434 acres in 2000 to 436 acres in 2001. The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class $1,000-$9,999 declined 0.6 percent to 1,166,590 in 2001. Farms and ranches with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 economic class decreased 1.2% from 2000 to 642,010 operations. The number of farms and ranches with sales over $100,000 remained unchanged at 349,180. Adverse weather, lower commodity prices, and competition for land continued to contributed to the overall reduction and consolidation of farms and ranches during 2001.

The North Central Region's loss of farms was the largest with a decline of 9,500 operations, 1.2% less than was estimated in 2000. The West Region lost 2,600 farms and ranches, 0.9% fewer than the previous year. The number of farms and ranches declined 1,600 or 0.2% in the South Region and 800 or 0.6% in the Northeast Region. The number of farms and ranches during 2001 declined in 23 States, remained unchanged in 22 States, and increased in five States.

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2001 Sheep and Lamb Losses

For immediate release: February 22, 2001
For more information contact: John Gibbons or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

The 2001 Sheep and Lamb Losses report is now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana sheep and lamb producers lost a total of 66,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2001, representing a total value of more than $3.2 million. The number of sheep and lambs lost was unchanged from 2000, but the total value of inventory lost in 2001 decreased 22 percent. Lower average market prices this past year resulted in the decreased sheep and lamb values. The total January 1, 2001 sheep and lamb inventory was 3 percent lower than the previous year. The report contains detailed information on the number of sheep and lambs losses, types of losses and value of losses during 2001.

The report is available on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ or it can be requested by calling or writing our office.

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2001 Montana and U.S. Honey Production

For immediate release: February 28, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

Honey produced in Montana by producers with five or more colonies during 2001 was 13.9 million pounds of honey, up 3.0 million pounds from the revised 2000 production, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The amount of honey production and colonies includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 136,000 colonies producing honey in 2001, compared with 124,000 colonies in 2000. The honey yield per colony was 102 pounds, up 14 pounds from a year ago. While honey yields by smaller producers were affected by the drought, larger producers and producers in the state part of the year did much better resulting in higher yields. Stocks on hand on December 15, 2001 totaled 4.6 million pounds, down 0.1 million pounds from 2000. The improved honey prices resulted in lower percentage of the honey crop on hand December 15, 2001.

Prices for Montana honey increased 6 cents per pound from last year to 65 cents per pound in 2001. The increased prices and production resulted in the value of honey production in 2001 rising 40 percent from last year to 9.0 million dollars.

Honey production in 2001 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 186 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2000. Honey production in 2001 was the lowest since 1989, when 181 million pounds was produced with a yield per colony of only 51.2 pounds. There were 2.51 million colonies producing honey in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. Yield per colony averaged 74.0 pounds, down 10.1 pounds from the 84.1 pounds in 2000. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 64.8 million pounds on December 15, 2001, down 24 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Prices for the 2001 crop averaged 66.9 cents per pound, up 12 percent from 59.7 cents in 2000. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2001 were higher than the previous year for all marketing channels and all color classes except 'All Other Honey, Area Specialties'.

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Agricultural Prices Received for January

For immediate release: February 28, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

January full month crop prices were generally lower compared with December 2001, according to Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.10 per bushel, down $0.04 from December; spring wheat was $0.09 lower at $3.04 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.03 to $4.00 per bushel. The average price received for oats fell $0.09 to $1.96 per bushel. Feed barley prices were down $0.02 from the previous month to $1.94, and malt barley prices were up $0.01 to $3.00 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay and all other hay both decreased $1.00 per ton to $94.00 and $90.00 per ton, respectively. The mid-February winter wheat price averaged $3.00 per bushel; spring wheat was $2.98; durum wheat was $3.90; oats was $1.95; feed barley was $1.90; and malt barley averaged $3.00.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $1.80 to $84.20 per cwt, but cows were up $2.40 to $37.20. The average price for calves rose $5.60 to $101.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $0.80 to $32.50 per cwt and lamb prices rose $6.20 to $69.90 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.70 per cwt from last month to $14.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $83.20 per cwt.; cows averaged $40.00 per cwt.; calves averaged $101.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.80 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $2.81, up $0.02 , spring wheat was $2.88, down $0.08; durum wheat was $3.49, up $0.04; the all barley price was $2.10 down $0.06, and steer and heifer prices were $71.20, up $2.60 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $2.82 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.84 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.26 per bushel, all wheat was $2.85 per bushel, malt barley was $2.57 per bushel, feed barley was $1.76 per bushel, and all barley was $2.19. Steer and heifer prices were $ 74.10 per cwt, cow prices were $40.70, calves were $104.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $38.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.559 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February was 99, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 4 points (4.2 percent) from the January Index. Price increases for lettuce, cattle, broccoli, and potatoes more than offset decreased prices for broilers, tomatoes, peanuts and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher marketings for milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat. Compared with February 2001, the All Farm Products Index was down 1 point (1.0 percent). Lower prices for cattle, broilers, eggs, and onions more than offset higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, potatoes, and oranges.

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Annual Red Meat Production for 2001

For immediate release: March 1, 2002
For more information please contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612

Montana slaughter plants produced 16.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2001, compared with 21.5 million pounds in 2000, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 19,900 cattle slaughtered during 2001, down 23 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 22.8 million pounds was down 21 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 29 pounds to 1,149 pounds.

There were 13,700 hogs slaughtered in Montana, a decrease of 6,600 head from 2000. Total live weight at 3.3 million pounds was down 37 percent from the last year. The average live weight was 244 pounds per head compared with 258 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,600 head, a decrease of 1,200 head from a year earlier. The average live weight at 120 pounds was 6 pounds lighter than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2001 decreased 30 percent from 2000 to 427,000 pounds.

The number of Montana federally inspected slaughter plants on January 1, 2002 was 11, unchanged from 2001. There were 139 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2002, down 1 from the same date a year ago.

United States red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 45.8 billion pounds in 2001, slightly lower than the record high set in 2000. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.7 billion pounds. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for over 51 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2001.

Beef production, at 26.2 billion pounds, fell 3 percent below the record high set last year. Veal production totaled 204 million pounds, down 9 percent from last year and a new record low. Pork production, at 19.2 billion pounds, was slightly below the record high set in 1999. Lamb and mutton production totaled 228 million pounds, fell 3 percent below a year ago and a new record low.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2001 totaled 35.4 million head, down 2 percent from 2000, with federal inspection comprising 98.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,221 pounds, up 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.2 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.7 percent, dairy cows 7.4 percent, other cows 8.9 percent, and bulls 1.8 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.01 million head, down 11 percent from a year ago with 97.4 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 320 pounds, up 4 pounds from a year earlier. Commercial hog slaughter totaled 98.0 million head, virtually unchanged from 2000 with 98.5 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 264 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 3.22 million head, was down less than 7 percent from 2000 with 95.1 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight rose 5 pounds from 2000 to 140 pounds.

There were 881 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2002, compared with 910 last year. Of these, 723 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2001 with 15 slaughtering almost 57 percent of the total cattle killed. There were 699 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 12 accounting for 53 percent of the total. Likewise, 7 of the 310 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for over 56 percent of the total and 5 of the 538 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2001 comprised 70 percent of the total head.

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2000 Agricultural Postharvest Chemical Use Estimates for Wheat

For immediate release: March 15, 2002
For more information please contact: Steve Hirsch or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service contacted 75 commercial grain storage or grain processing facilities during the summer of 2001 to determine the types and amounts of chemicals applied to wheat and to determine pest management practices used in off-farm storage. On-farm postharvest applications were beyond the scope of this survey. The time frame for these applications was June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001. Wheat storage facilities in Montana and thirteen other wheat States (CO, ID, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, OK, OR, SD, TX and WA) were surveyed.

Based on total pounds applied, **silicon dioxide** and **aluminum phosphide** were the most commonly used postharvest chemicals applied to wheat in Montana and the other states surveyed. Silicon dioxide is an insecticide. Montana's commercial grain storage facilities operators applied 2,700 pounds of silicon dioxide to control insects in wheat, which made up 2.4% of total pounds applied in the fourteen states surveyed. Although aluminum phosphide is commonly referred to as a fumigant, it is used to kill insects, insect larvae, and mites, and is classified as an insecticide by the EPA. Montana commercial grain storage facility operators applied 1,100 pounds aluminum phosphide to control insects in wheat, making up only 1% of total pounds applied in the fourteen states surveyed. Commercial grain storage operators in all States applied 115,400 pounds of aluminum phosphide treating 539.7 million bushels of wheat. Operators in all States applied 112,600 pounds of silicon dioxide treating 9.4 million bushels of wheat. The most widely used fungicide in all states surveyed was **tebuconazole**. Commercial grain storage facilities operators in all States applied 200 pounds of tebuconazole treating only 293,000 bu of wheat. Data is not available at the state level.

Montana grain storage operators used one or more of the following strategies in determining their treatment schedules. About two-thirds relied on **visual grain inspection**; 13% on **preset calendar dates**; 13% on **bin samples** and 13% on **scheduled fumigation with other handling operations**. No operators used **insect traps** to determine schedules. Seven percent of operators based fumigation on customers requests.

When considering all States almost three-fourths of the grain storage operators based treatment schedules on **visual grain inspections**. Forty-three percent of operators in all states surveyed relied on **bin samples**, 15% **scheduled fumigation with other handling activities**, 9% relied on **preset calendar dates**, 3% relied on **customers requests** and 6% relied on **insect traps** to determine treatment schedules.

Fourteen percent of Montana commercial grain storage facilities operators use an **aeration controller system** to determine the optimum running time (considering humidity and temperature) for aeration fans, while 43% of operators in all states surveyed used an aeration controller. Seven percent of Montana operators use **temperature cables in bins** to monitor grain temperature in bins compared to an average of 46% of operators in all states surveyed. Ten percent of operators use a **deep bin sampler** which allows one to reach deeply into a grain bin and sample grain that is normally out of reach to typical probe samplers. When considering all States, 10% of operators used a deep bin sampler. Sixteen percent of Montana's operators use **power probes** to sample grain, compared to 29% of operators in all States. Most of Montana's operators (79%) use a **protein analyzer** to determine the protein of grain while less than half of operators in all states (40%) use a protein analyzer. Only about one-sixth of Montana grain storage operators use a **phosphine pellet dispenser** to apply chemicals, compared to more than one-quarter of the operators in all States.

Picking up spilled grain around bins is the most common cleaning activity in Montana and all other States, with 97% of Montana operators and 98% of operators in all States reporting the activity. **Controlling vegetation** around bins was the second most common activity with 95% of Montana operators and 97% all State operators reporting the activity. **Sweeping empty bins** was the third most common cleaning activity for Montana operators and all other states with 94% of operators participating in the activity. About one-fourth of the Montana operators and half of operators in all States surveyed **applied fumigants to empty bins**.

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Agricultural Prices Received for February

For immediate release: March 27, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

February full month crop prices were lower compared with January 2002, except for oats and feed barley, according to Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.03 per bushel, down $0.07 from January; spring wheat was $0.06 lower at $2.98 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.08 to $3.92 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.20 to $2.16 per bushel. Feed barley prices were up $0.03 from the previous month to $1.97, while malt barley prices were down $0.03 to $2.97 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay was down $2.00 to $92.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $5.00 to $85.00 per ton. The mid-March winter wheat price averaged $3.00 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.10; durum wheat was $3.95; oats was $2.15; feed barley was $2.00; and malt barley averaged $3.05.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $0.40 to $83.80 per cwt, but cows were up $2.30 to $39.50. The average price for calves rose $1.00 to $102.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.00 to $31.50 per cwt and lamb prices were down $0.20 to $69.70 per cwt. Milk prices were down $1.10 per cwt from last month to $13.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $86.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $43.60 per cwt.; calves averaged $104.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $2.75, down $0.06, spring wheat was $2.85, down $0.03; durum wheat was $3.49, unchanged; the all barley price was $2.21 up $0.11, and steer and heifer prices were $73.60, up $2.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $2.76 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.87 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.11 per bushel, all wheat was $2.81 per bushel, malt barley was $2.67 per bushel, feed barley was $1.77 per bushel, and all barley was $2.26. Steer and heifer prices were $ 75.30 per cwt, cow prices were $42.40, calves were $104.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $36.30 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.685 per dozen.

The preliminary Prices Received by Farmers Index for All Farm Products in March was 106, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 7 points (7.1 percent) from the February index. A record price for lettuce, along with other increases for eggs, cattle, and tomatoes, more than offset decreased prices for broilers, milk, hogs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for strawberries, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, corn, and cotton. Compared with March 2001, the Prices Received Index was up 2 points (1.9 percent). Higher prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and apples more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and tomatoes.

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Weekly Crop-Weather Reports Begin

For immediate release: March 27, 2002
For more information please contact: John Gibbons or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612

The 2002 growing season is upon us, and with it begins the weekly crop-weather report published by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Undoubtably, this is one of the most useful reports for producers, agribusinesses, and market analysts. The report provides up-to-date conditions and progress of Montana's crops as well as pertinent data on moisture supplies and weather information.

We will resume publication of the weekly reports April 1, 2002. These will continue through October 28 when the last 2002 weekly report will be issued. At that time, monthly reports will resume.

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March 1, 2002 Grain Stocks

For immediate release: March 28, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Curtis Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on March 1, 2002 were 82.9 million bushels, down 11 percent from a year ago, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 62.0 million bushels, down 13 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 20.9 million bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. All spring wheat stocks, at 60.6 million bushels, were down 1 percent from last year and accounted for 73 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were down 30 percent from a year ago to 22.3 million bushels and is the lowest March 1 stocks since 1995. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 6.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the December - February 2002 quarter was down 36 percent from the same quarter last year to 26.0 million bushels. This is compared with 40.9 million last year.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2002 were 15.0 million bushels, down 11 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 8.0 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was down 12 percent a year ago to 7.0 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.9 million bushels, down 3 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 1.7 million bushels down 6 percent from 1.8 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were up 36 percent from last year to 0.15 million bushels.

United States, all wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2002 totaled 1.21 billion bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 339 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 872 million bushels, are down 9 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2001 - February 2002 disappearance is 413 million bushels, down 12 percent from the same period a year earlier. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2002 totaled 51.9 million bushels, down 29 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 30.2 million bushels, are down 32 percent from March 1, 2001. Off-farm stocks totaled 21.7 million bushels, down 24 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2001 - February 2002 disappearance of 24.7 million bushels is down 22 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions in the United States on March 1, 2002 totaled 142 million bushels, down 13 percent from March 1, 2001. On-farm stocks are estimated at 46.0 million bushels, 22 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 95.7 million bushels, are 8 percent below March 2001. Indicated disappearance during the December 2001 - February 2002 quarter totaled 53.4 million bushels, down 20 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2002 totaled 92.8 million bushels, 16 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2001. Of the total stocks on hand, 39.8 million bushels were stored in on-farm facilities, 29 percent below the previous year. Off-farm stocks totaled 53.0 million bushels, 2 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during the December 2001 - February 2002 quarter totaled 21.4 million bushels, 37 percent less than the same period a year ago.

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Montana Intends to Seed More Wheat; Nationally Seedings are Down

For immediate release: March 28, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Curtis Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana small grain producers intend on planting more wheat than last year, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Intended all wheat seedings are estimated to be 5.43 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Even though seedings are expected to be up from last year, there is a lot of uncertainty regarding this spring's actual planting of small grain crops. Intended acreage may change based on the condition of the winter wheat crop this spring and precipitation received through planting. **Winter wheat** seedings remained unchanged from the December estimate at 1.40 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. Producers are concerned about the emergence of winter wheat planted last fall, as much of it was planted in dry soils and freeze and wind damage during the winter may cause some producers to abandon acreage. **Spring wheat** producers expect to seed 3.5 million acres in 2002, down 1 percent from last year, but acreage could change if a large amount of winter wheat is abandoned and replanted to spring wheat. **Durum wheat** seedings, at 530,000 acres, are expected to be up 4 percent from a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest durum wheat seedings since 1957 when 600,000 acres were seeded.

Montana **barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 1.25 million acres, up 14 percent from last year. The intended seeded acreage for **oats** is expected to be 135,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from the previous year. Growers intend to harvest 65,000 acres of the 2002 oat crop for grain, 5,000 acres more than a year ago. **Corn** growers intend to plant 65,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Farmers intend to plant an estimated 59,500 acres of **sugar beets**, up 4 percent from 2001. The area planted to **dry beans** is expected to be 30,000 acres, down 22 percent from last year. An estimated 2.2 million acres of **hay** are expected to be harvested, which is 250,000 acres less than last year. Acreage cut for hay may change significantly if drought conditions continue and CRP land is opened for haying and small grains are harvested for hay due to abandonment.

United States all wheat planted area is expected to total 59.0 million acres in 2002. This is down 1 percent from 2001 and the lowest level since 1972. Area planted to **durum wheat** is intended to total 2.84 million acres, down 2 percent from 2001. The 2002 **other spring wheat** planted acreage is estimated at 15.1 million acres, down 3 percent from last year. Of the total, about 14.2 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2002 crop is 41.1 million acres, nearly identical to the previous year's acreage. This is the lowest acres seeded to winter wheat since 1971. Of the total, about 29.3 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 3.4 million acres White Winter.

Barley growers in the United States intend to seed 5.08 million acres for 2002, up 2 percent from the record low of 4.97 million acres seeded a year ago. Increases in 11 States were partially offset by declines in 8 States.

Acres of **oats** seeded and to be seeded for the 2002 crop year in the United States is expected to total 5.13 million acres, up 16 percent, or 726,000 acres, from last year's final planted acres. Growers expect to harvest 2.53 million acres for grain, 33 percent more than the final 2001 harvested acreage of 1.91 million. If intentions are realized, planted and harvested acres would be the highest since 1995. Planting intentions for 2002 are higher than last year's final planted acreage in 17 States.

Hay producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of hay in 2002, up less than 1 percent from 2001. Increases in 21 States are expected to offset declines in 18 States. Area planted to **sugar beets** for the 2002 crop year is expected to total 1.42 million acres, 3 percent above the 2001 planted acres. If intentions are realized, acreage will increase in 8 of the 12 sugarbeet producing States, especially in Idaho and Minnesota, where acreage is expected to be up 14,000 and 12,000 acres, respectively.

Area planted to **dry beans** for the 2002 crop year is expected to total 1.77 million acres, up 24 percent from last year and less than 1 percent above 2000. U.S. **corn** growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2002, up 4 percent from 2001 but down 1 percent from 2000. Expected acreage is up in many areas of the United States and in virtually all areas of the Corn Belt.

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Media Contact: Peggy Stringer (800) 835-2612
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FARM IDENTIFICATION SURVEY BEGINS IN APRIL

MONTANA, April 15, 2002 - Eight thousand potential farms and ranches across the Montana will receive a 2002 Farm Identification Survey in the mail over the next few weeks. The intent of the survey is to identify agricultural operations for the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

Many people who do not consider themselves to be farmers or ranchers actually qualify as a farm and are important to the 2002 Census of Agriculture. The Farm Identification Survey consists of seven short questions which will help determine agricultural status. Simple questions will ask about growing crops or raising livestock in any quantity. The short survey should take less than five minutes to complete and mail in the postage paid envelope.

Responses to this survey and the 2002 Census of Agriculture are mandatory under Title 7, U. S. Code, which also assures the information provided is confidential and will not be provided to any individual or organization.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture forms will be sent to 2.75 million potential farms and ranches in December 2002. For additional information about the Farm Identification Survey or the 2002 Census of Agriculture, get online at www.usda.gov/nass/ or call toll-free at 1-888-4AG-STAT or 1-888-424-7828.

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Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/.

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2001 Cash Receipts for Meat Animals up in Montana and the U.S.

For immediate release: April 26, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard II or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Cash receipts from the 2001 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled $1.03 billion, up 1 percent from 2000, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves were up 1 percent from 2000 to a new historic high. Cattle and calf cash receipts almost eclipsed the billion mark for the first time at $978 million. Increased cattle marketings and higher prices for cattle contributed to the increase in cash receipts. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.4 million head, were up 1 percent from 2000. This is the third highest marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased 4 percent from the previous year to 350,000 head. The average price received in 2000 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs rose $2.20 per cwt to $80.50 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased $3.80 per cwt to $99.20 per cwt. The average price received for cattle was the highest on record, while calf prices were the second highest on record. The total value of the cattle and calf inventory on January 1, 2002 was 2.1 billion dollars, down 5 percent from last year. Decreases in cattle and calf inventory and lower values contributed to the decline.

Cash receipts from the sales of hogs in Montana rose 17 percent from 2000 to $35.7 million dollars. Marketings of hogs and pigs rose 11 percent from the previous year to 344,000 head. The average prices received for hogs rose $3.80 from the previous year to $43.60 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2001 was 13.8 million dollars, up 11 percent from last year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts were down 24 percent from the previous year to 18.5 million dollars. Decreased marketings of lambs and a dramatic drop in lamb prices contributed to the large decline cash receipts. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2001 were 79,000 and 251,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were up 26,000 head from last year while lamb marketings were down 34,000 head. The average price for lambs dropped $24.70 per cwt to $59.80 per cwt while sheep were up $2.50 per cwt from last year to $33.90 per cwt. The value of the sheep and lamb inventory was 26.8 million dollars, down 21 percent from the previous year.

In the United States, the 2001 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled $53.7 billion, up 1 percent from 2000. Gross income rose for hogs and pigs, but fell for calves and calves and sheep and lambs. Hogs and pigs increased 6 percent, while cattle and calves and sheep and lambs decreased 1 and 15 percent respectively. Total 2001 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 1 percent to $53.3 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for hogs and pigs, but decreased for both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up from 2000 levels for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep while lambs showed a decrease.

U.S. cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves decreased from $40.7 billion in 2000 to $40.4 in 2001, a 1 percent decrease. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 55.3 billion pounds in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $71.30 an increase of $2.70 from 2000. For calves, the annual average price increased $2.00 to $106.00.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $12.5 billion during 2001, up 6 percent from 2000. Marketings increased to 26.9 billion pounds in 2001, up 1 percent from 2000. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased $2.00 to $44.30 in 2001.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in the United States were $398 million, down 15 percent from 2000. Marketings declined 1 percent to 641 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from $34.30 in 2000 to $34.60 in 2001 while for lambs, the annual average price decreased $12.90 to $66.90.

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Agricultural Prices Received for March

For immediate release: April 30, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

March full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with February 2002, except for other hay and feed barley, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.08 per bushel, up $0.05 from February; spring wheat was $0.01 higher at $2.99 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.01 to $3.93 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.11 to $2.27 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.14 from the previous month to $1.83, while malt barley prices were up $0.02 to $2.99 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 to $93.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $1.00 to $84.00 per ton. The mid-April winter wheat price averaged $3.10 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.05; durum wheat was $3.85; oats was $2.25; feed barley was $1.90; and malt barley averaged $2.95.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mixed compared with the previous month, while mid-month prices were down significantly. Steer and heifer prices were down $0.30 to $83.50 per cwt, but cows were up $3.80 to $43.30. The average price for calves rose $2.00 to $104.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $3.60 to $27.90 per cwt and lamb prices were down $0.70 to $69.00 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.10 per cwt from last month to $13.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $76.10 per cwt.; cows averaged $40.00 per cwt.; calves averaged $97.70 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was $2.81, up $0.06, spring wheat was $2.91, up $0.06; durum wheat was $3.33, down $0.16; the all barley price was $2.18, down $0.03, and steer and heifer prices were $74.30, up $0.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was $2.73 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.88 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.16 per bushel, all wheat was $2.80 per bushel, malt barley was $2.54 per bushel, feed barley was $1.75 per bushel, and all barley was $2.10. Steer and heifer prices were $ 71.20 per cwt, cow prices were $40.50, calves were $102.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $30.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.519 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April was 95, based on 1990-92=100, down 10 points (9.5 percent) from the revised March index. Declining lettuce prices along with decreases for hogs, eggs, and cattle, more than offset increased prices for onions, hay, apples, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for cattle, strawberries, milk, and oranges more than offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton. Compared with April last year, the All Farm Products Index was down 11 points (10.4 percent). Lower prices for broilers, milk, hogs, and cattle more than offset higher prices for potatoes, tomatoes, apples, and carrots. The food commodities index decreased by 13.0 percent over both last month and last year.

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AGRICULTURAL SURVEY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THE FACTS

For Immediate Release: May 7, 2002
For more information contact: Peggy Stringer or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612

(Helena, Montana, May 7, 2002) Plenty of unanswered questions surround Montana's agriculture in 2002. What effects will prices have on this years seeded acreage? How many acres of winter wheat will be plowed up and re-seeded to spring wheat because of the drought? What effect did spring planting conditions have on the type of crops planted this year? How has the drought hurt Montana's cattle industry? To gather reliable, objective information, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be surveying farmers and ranchers for the June Agricultural Survey.

There is always speculation about each new crop season and agricultural producers are the main source for the facts. "If we speak up and answer the questions about the 2002 crop season, we can reduce uncertainty in the agriculture marketplace," says Ralph Peck, Director for Montana Department of Agriculture.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the survey and a representative will contact local producers between May 28 and June 14. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2002.

The information gathered is widely used. Producers rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension agents, and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Peggy Stringer says. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data." Montana Agricultural Statistics Service works with farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. agriculture informed.

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at *www.usda.gov/nass/*. For more information, call 1-800-835-2612.

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May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

For immediate release: May 10, 2002

For more information contact: Thomas Chard II or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Based on conditions May 1, **Montana winter wheat** producers are expecting a yield of 28 bushels per acre, up 6 bushel from last year's final yield estimate, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. However, this is down 6 bushels from the May 1, 2001 forecast. If realized, total production of 28.0 million bushels would be up 46 percent from a year ago due to an increase in acreage and expected yield from 2001. In the fall of 2001, Montana producers seeded 1.4 million acres of winter wheat, up 100,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 1.0 million acres, up 130,000 acres from last year. Acreage expected not to be harvested for grain is currently estimated to be 400,000 acres compared with 430,000 acres last year. If drought and poor weather conditions persist, acres not harvested for grain are expected to increase above last year's unusually large abandonment. The largest amount of unharvested acres ever recorded was 1.06 million acres in 1985 when 2.46 million acres were planted. Producers in the North Central district have been the most severely impacted by the drought and poor weather conditions.

Due to weather conditions, winter wheat has been very slow to break dormancy, as 9% of the acres were rated still dormant, 42% greening, and 49% green and growing for the week ending May 5th. This compares with 1% dormant, 15% greening, 84% green and growing a year ago. Slow crop development and weather conditions have added a significant amount of uncertainty for producers regarding the number of acres that will actually be harvested for grain and expected yields. Many producer comments indicated it was too early to tell what they will do and many indicated they were waiting for the crop adjustor to come. Yields on remaining acreage will be severely impacted if significant rainfall isn't received soon and during the growing season. For the week ending May 5, the condition of the winter wheat crop was significantly worse than the previous year and the 5 year average as conditions were rated 40 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 8 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Last year the condition ratings were 12% very poor, 24% poor, 40% fair, 21% good, and 3% excellent, while the 5 year average is 5% very poor, 13% poor, 38% fair, 40% good, an 4% excellent.

Winter wheat production for the United States is forecast at 1.30 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2001. This is the lowest production since 1978. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.1 bushels per acre, 0.4 bushels less than last year. Area for 2002 grain harvest in the United States is forecast at 30.2 million acres, down 4 percent from 2001. This will be the smallest winter wheat area harvested since 1917.

The portion of the United States winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on April 28, at 36 percent, was 5 percentage points lower than last year. The Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas good to excellent ratings were only 25 percent, 34 percent, and 24 percent, respectively. Overall, condition ratings on April 28 were lower than any corresponding week since 1989. Dry weather aided winter wheat seeding across the Great Plains and Pacific Northwest last fall. Temperatures were favorable for development across most of the Nation, but emergence and growth were spotty and uneven due to topsoil moisture shortages, especially in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Montana hay producers had an estimated 845 thousand tons of hay on hand as of May 1, almost double the amount they had on hand a year ago. Last year's hay stocks were one of the lowest on record. Increased hay production from CRP and small grain acreage harvested for hay during 2001 and decreased livestock inventories contributed to the increased hay stocks. Disappearance from December 2001 to May 1, 2002 totaled 2.76 million tons, up 1 percent from last year.

Stocks of all hay stored on farms in the United States totaled 22.5 million tons on May 1, up 7 percent from the previous year. The increase in May 1 stocks was mainly the result of the 2001 hay crop increasing by 3 percent. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2001 - May 1, 2002, totaled 88.0 million tons, 4 percent higher than the disappearance of 84.5 million tons for the same period a year ago. Disappearance was up from last year despite the mild winter, due to dry spring conditions limiting pasture and extending the hay feeding period in the Southeast, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountain States.

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2001 Specialty Crops County Estimates

For immediate release: May 30, 2002
For more information contact: John Gibbons or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service has published county estimates for 2001 oilseeds and pulse crops. This is the third year of the data series. County-level data is not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Dry bean county estimates for Montana are published for these classes: all, garbanzo, and other, which is principally pintos. Other dry bean production for 2001 was 205,000 cwt. for the state. **Prairie** county had the largest other bean production in the state with 43,000 cwt. The second and third leading counties were **Carbon** and **Dawson** with 40,000 cwt. and 22,000 cwt. produced, respectively. The south-central district produced the largest crop of other beans followed closely by the southeast district. Looking at garbanzo beans, **Daniels** county produced the most in 2001 with 29,000 cwt. The second leading county was **Roosevelt** with 28,400 cwt. No other counties for garbanzo beans were published to avoid disclosure of individual information. The northeastern district produced the most garbanzo beans in Montana.

For the 2001 lentil crop, **Sheridan** was the number one county with 87,000 cwt. produced. The number two county was **Roosevelt** with total production at 54,000 cwt., and the third largest was **Richland** county with 14,900 cwt. Northeastern district farmers produced 78 percent of the state's lentils. Dry edible peas county estimates reveal **Roosevelt** county was the largest producer in 2001 with 56,500 cwt., followed by **Richland** county at 44,500 cwt., and **Pondera** county at 19,500 cwt. Northeastern district farmers produced 70 percent of the state's dry peas. **Teton** and **Dawson** were the leading counties for Austrian winter pea production in 2001 with 5,800 cwt. and 4,000 cwt., respectively.

Sheridan was by far the largest canola producing county in 2001 with 14.8 million pounds, or 33 percent of the state's canola. The second largest county was **Daniels** with 10.1 million pounds produced, followed by **Roosevelt** county with 3.3 million pounds. The northeastern district produced 72 percent of the crop. **Richland** was once again the number one safflower producing county with 5.6 million pounds. The next leading county was **Daniels** at 5.0 million pounds, followed by **McCone's** production of 3.6 million pounds. Seventy-five percent of the state's safflower was produced in the northeast district.

Sheridan led the state in flaxseed production for 2001 at 97,000 bushels. The next county was **Valley** with 36,000 bushels, followed by **Roosevelt** county at 15,500 bushels. Eighty-nine percent of the state's flaxseed was produced in the northeast district. The south-central district accounted for 39 percent of Montana's sunflower production, but county-level data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information. The leading mustard seed producing counties were **Sheridan** with 4.5 million pounds and **McCone** with 1.3 million pounds. Almost all of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the northeast district.

All the preceeding information along with yields and planted and harvested acres by county, district, and state levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2001. Thanks to those who participated!

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Agricultural Prices Received for April, Montana Livestock Prices Fall

For immediate release: May 31, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

April full month crop prices were mixed compared with March 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.04 per bushel, down $0.04 from March; spring wheat was $0.06 higher at $3.05 per bushel; and durum wheat prices dropped $0.18 to $3.75 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.07 to $2.34 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.21 from the previous month to $2.04, while malt barley prices were down $0.07 to $2.92 per bushel.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay was down $3.00 to $90.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $2.00 to $82.00 per ton. The mid-May winter wheat price averaged $2.85 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.05; durum wheat was $3.60; oats was $2.25; feed barley was $2.00; and malt barley averaged $2.95.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were all drastically down compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices fell $6.10 to $77.40 per cwt, and cows were down $2.70 to $40.60. The average price for calves dropped $9.70 to $94.30 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.90 to $26.00 per cwt and lamb prices were down $6.20 to $62.80 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.20 per cwt from last month to $12.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-May averaged $77.70 per cwt.; cows averaged $41.00 per cwt.; calves averaged $93.30 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.80 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $2.75, down $0.06, spring wheat was $2.92, up $0.01; durum wheat was $3.39, up $0.06; the all barley price was $2.10, down $0.08, and steer and heifer prices were $70.60, down $3.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $2.72 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.92 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.12 per bushel, all wheat was $2.80 per bushel, malt barley was $2.58 per bushel, feed barley was $1.91 per bushel, and all barley was $2.14. Steer and heifer prices were $ 69.30 per cwt, cow prices were $40.20, calves were $98.90 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.505 per dozen.

The preliminary United States All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May was 98, based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (3.2 percent) from the revised April index. Higher prices for broilers, potatoes, hogs, and oranges more than offset lower prices for lettuce, cattle, milk, and cucumbers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for cantaloupe, grapes, sweet corn, and peaches more than offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, apples and asparagus. Compared with May last year, the All Farm Products Index was down 10 points (9.3 percent). Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and cucumbers more than offset higher prices for potatoes, strawberries, corn, and soybeans. The Food Commodities Index increased by 4.3 percent over last month to 97, but was 11.8 percent below last year.

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June 1, 2002 Crop Production Forecast

For immediate release: June 12, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana winter wheat producers were expecting a yield of 30 bushels per acre based on June 1 conditions, up 8 bushels from last year and 2 bushels above last month's forecast, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Improved moisture conditions and the abandonment of many poorer fields contributed to the increase in yield prospects. Based on the previous month's forecasted harvested acres estimate of 1.0 million acres, total production would be 30.0 million bushels, up 57 percent from last year. Harvested acreage was not updated from the previous month because additional survey information was not available. The results of the June Acreage Surveys, which are currently underway, will be released on June 28, 2002 and will update harvested acreage and provide a better indication of winter wheat abandoned since planting last fall.

The winter wheat conditions in the state improved during the month as significant moisture was received in the major growing areas. While this rain came too late for fields already abandoned, yield potential improved on the remaining acreage. Continued favorable growing conditions will be necessary to maintain yield potential. As of June 9, winter wheat conditions were rated 16 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 1 percent excellent, which is significantly better than last year's ratings which were 47 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 6 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. However, a cool late spring has caused the winter wheat crop development to be way behind normal. As of the week ending June 9, barely 1 percent percent of the winter wheat crop had headed compared with the 5-year average of 33 percent and 45 percent a year ago.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.24 billion bushels, down 5 percent from the May 1 forecast and 9 percent below 2001 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 30.2 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Hard Red production is down 6 percent from a month ago to 672 million bushels. Soft Red is down 3 percent from last month, and now totals 360 million bushels. White production totals 206 million bushels, down 2 percent from last month.

Area for 2002 grain harvest in the United States is forecast at 30.2 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but down 4 percent from 2001. This is the smallest winter wheat area since 1917. As of June 2, heading had reached 82 percent in the 18 major States. Harvest progress was at 5 percent, ranging from none in most States to 35 percent in Texas.

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Agricultural Prices Received for May 2002

For immediate release: June 27, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

May full month crop prices were mostly down compared with April 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $2.99 per bushel, down $0.05 from the previous month; spring wheat dropped $0.11 to $2.94 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.04 to $3.71 per bushel. The average price received for oats was down $0.12 to $2.22 per bushel. On the contrary, barley prices rose last month. Feed barley prices increased $0.15 from the previous month to $2.19, while malt barley prices were up a penny to $2.93 per bushel.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay was down $2.00 to $88.00 per ton, while all other hay remained unchanged at $82.00 per ton. The mid-June winter wheat price averaged $3.06 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.05; durum wheat was $3.60; feed barley was $2.05; and malt barley averaged $2.90.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mostly down compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices fell $0.60 to $76.80 per cwt, while cows were up $0.20 to $40.80. The average price for calves dropped $1.40 to $92.90 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $4.10 to $21.90 per cwt, but lamb prices were up $3.70 to $66.50 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.30 per cwt from last month to $12.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $76.20 per cwt.; cows averaged $39.50 per cwt.; calves averaged $92.50 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.50 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was $2.73, down $0.02, spring wheat was $2.90, down $0.02; durum wheat was $3.37, down $0.02; the all barley price was $2.24, up $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were $68.20, down $2.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-June winter wheat price was $2.86 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.84 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.16 per bushel, all wheat was $2.86 per bushel, malt barley was $2.34 per bushel, feed barley was $1.86 per bushel, and all barley was $2.05. Steer and heifer prices were $ 65.80 per cwt, cow prices were $38.70, calves were $94.90 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.633 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May was 97, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the revised May index. Higher prices for eggs, broilers, broccoli, and hogs offset decreased prices for cantaloupe, cattle, milk, and peaches. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for wheat, grapes, hay, and cantaloupe more than offset decreased marketings of oranges, tomatoes, strawberries, and sweet corn. Compared with June last year, the All Farm Products Index was down 9 points (8.4 percent). Lower prices for cattle, broilers, hogs, and celery more than offset higher prices for potatoes, corn, eggs, and wheat.

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June 1, 2002 Grain Stocks

For immediate release: June 28, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on June 1, 2002 were 52.3 million bushels, up 2 percent from a year ago, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 37.0 million bushels, up 9 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 15.3 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the March - May 2002 quarter was down 36 percent from the same quarter last year to 30.6 million bushels. This is compares with 41.6 million last year. Wheat stocks by class and by district are no longer available due to funding cuts by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2002 were 6.1 million bushels, down 41 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 3.0 million bushels, down 50 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was down 28 percent from a year ago to 3.1 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were 965,000 bushels, down 1 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 900,000 bushels unchanged from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were was down 7 percent from last year to 65,000 bushels.

United States, all wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 2002 totaled 772 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 212 million bushels, up 7 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 560 million bushels, are down 18 percent from a year ago. The indicated March - May 2002 disappearance is 438 million bushels, down 5 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on June 1, 2002 totaled 33.0 million bushels, down 27 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 20.6 million bushels, are down 29 percent from June 1, 2001. Off-farm stocks totaled 12.4 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago. The indicated March - May 2002 disappearance of 18.9 million bushels is down 32 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions in the United States on June 1, 2002 totaled 92.8 million bushels, down 13 percent from June 1, 2001. On-farm stocks are estimated at 23.2 million bushels, 20 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 69.6 million bushels, are 10 percent below June 2001. Indicated disappearance during the March - May 2002 quarter totaled 48.9 million bushels, down 12 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 2002 totaled 63.2 million bushels, 13 percent below the stocks stored in all positions on June 1, 2001. Of the total stocks on hand, 28.7 million bushels were stored in on-farm facilities, 11 percent less than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 34.5 million bushels, 15 percent less than last year. Indicated disappearance during the March - May 2002 quarter totaled 30.2 million bushels, 19 percent less than the same period a year ago.

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June 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2002	June 1, 2002	'02/'01	June 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2002*	June 1, 2002
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	34,000	62,000	37,000	109%	197,270	338,500	211,830
Off Farms 1/	17,420	20,930	15,330	88%	678,912	871,268	560,075
TOTAL	51,420	82,930	52,330	102%	876,182	1,209,768	771,905
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	11,000	15,000	2/	NA	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	6,020	7,320	2/	NA	--	--	--
TOTAL	17,020	22,320	2/	NA	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	23,000	47,000	2/	NA	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,400	13,610	2/	NA	--	--	--
TOTAL	34,400	60,610	2/	NA	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	29,100	30,200	20,600
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	16,073	21,690	12,390
TOTAL	4,370	6,590	2/	NA	45,173	51,890	32,990
BARLEY							
On Farms	6,000	8,000	3,000	50%	28,850	46,000	23,210
Off Farms 1/	4,290	6,990	3,110	72%	77,409	95,748	69,631
TOTAL	10,290	14,990	6,110	59%	106,259	141,748	92,841
OATS							
On Farms	900	1,700	900	100%	32,050	40,200	28,650
Off Farms 1/	70	150	65	93%	40,677	53,157	34,537
TOTAL	970	1,850	965	99%	72,727	93,357	63,187
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,230,800	3,355,000	2,020,600
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,693,158	2,440,261	1,573,385
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,923,958	5,795,261	3,593,985

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are no longer available due to funding cuts by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

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June 1, 2002 Crop Acreage

For immediate release: June 28, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Small Grain Acreage:

All wheat planted acreage in Montana is estimated to be 5.69 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and is the highest acreage planted since 1997, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. **Spring wheat** producers planted an estimated 3.75 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and up 6 percent from what they intended to plant on March 1, 2002. Producers intend to harvest 3.55 million acres of spring wheat this year, up 25 percent from last year's drought reduced acreage. The large abandonment of winter wheat acreage this spring has partially contributed to more acres of spring wheat being planted this year. The condition of the spring wheat crop for the week ending June 23 is significantly better than last years crop at this time as conditions were rated 0% very poor, 3% poor, 32% fair, 53% good and 12% excellent. Moisture received since the beginning of May has significantly improved crop prospects. **Winter wheat** acreage planted remained unchanged from the March 1 estimate at 1.40 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. However, due to dry planting conditions, harsh winter, and poor spring growing conditions, winter wheat producers are expecting to harvest 800,000 acres, down 200,000 acres from the previous forecast and down 70,000 acres from last years drought reduced acreage. This would be the smallest acreage of winter wheat harvested since 1937. The percentage of winter wheat for grain harvest this year, at 57.1%, ranks as the fourth lowest percentage on record. Rainfall came too late to avoid the high acreage abandonment, however, the condition of the remaining acreage has improved significantly since earlier this spring and is now rated better than last years crop at this time. The condition of the winter wheat crop for the week ending June 23 was rated 15% very poor, 20% poor, 31% fair, 29% good, and 5% excellent compared with 41%, 31%, 19%, 8% and 1%, respectively, a year ago. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 540,000 acres, is up 6 percent from a year ago and is the largest durum wheat planted acreage since 1956. Acreage of durum wheat intended to be harvested is estimated at 530,00 acres, up 7 percent from last year.

Montana **barley** producers planted an estimated 1.2 million acres, up 9 percent from last year, but down 4 percent from what was intended to be planted on March 1, 2002. The state's barley growers intend to harvest 950,000 acres for grain this year, 32 percent more than the previous year's harvest. Planted acreage for **oats**, at 155,000 acres, is up 25,000 acres the previous year and is 15% percent greater than intended plantings on March 1, 2002. Growers intend to harvest 85,000 acres of the oat crop for grain, 25,000 acres more than a year ago.

In the United States, **all wheat** planted area is estimated at 60.1 million acres, up 1 percent from 2001. Harvested area is expected to total 47.6 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. The 2002 **winter wheat** planted area, at 41.4 million acres, is less than 1 percent above both last year and the previous estimate. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 29.8 million acres, down 1 percent from the June 1 forecast and 5 percent below the 2001 total. This is the smallest area for grain since 1917. Acreage planted to **other spring wheat** for 2002 is estimated at 16.0 million, up 2 percent from 2001. Grain area is expected to total 15.2 million acres, up 4 percent from last year. **Durum** wheat planted area for 2002 is estimated at 2.76 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. Area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 2.69 million acres, 4 percent below last year's level.

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Nationally, **barley** growers seeded 5.05 million acres for 2002, up 2 percent from the 4.97 million acres seeded a year ago. This level is an increase from the record low planted acreage of 2001. Acres for harvest, at 4.50 million, rebounded 5 percent from the 2001 level. The area planted to **oats** last fall and this spring totaled 5.09 million acres, 1 percent below the March intentions, but 15 percent above last year's final seeded acres. Acreage to be harvested for grain, at 2.63 million acres, is 4 percent above the March intentions and 38 percent more than last year's record low. The increases for planted and harvested acres are the first since 1997.

Acreage for Row Crops, Hay, and Oilseeds:

Montana **corn** growers planted an estimated 55,000 acres which is down 10,000 acres from a year ago and down 10,000 acres from the March 1 intentions. Acreage intended to be harvested for grain, at 14,000 acres, is up 1,000 acres from a year ago. **Sugar beet** producers planted an estimated 57,800 acres, up 1 percent from 2001. Many acres of sugarbeets had to be replanted due to freezing temperatures this spring. An estimated 2.85 million acres of **all hay** are expected to be harvested, which is 400,000 acres more than last year's drought affected harvest, and 650,000 acres more than was intended to be cut on March 1, 2002. The sharp increase in optimism for the 2002 hay crop is a reflection of high hay prices and increased precipitation throughout the state, following more than 3 years of drought. Of the total hay expected for harvest, 1.7 million acres are expected to be **alfalfa** hay, which is up 250,000 acres from last year's figure. Producers expect to harvest 1,150,000 acres of **other hay** which is up 150,000 acres from a year ago. Farmers planted 23,000 acres of **dry beans** in 2002, down 40 percent from last year and 23 percent below their March 1, 2002 intentions. Producers are looking to harvest 21,000 acres of dry beans this season, 9 percent less than last year's number. The relatively small decrease in harvested acreage, when compared to the reduction in seedings, can be attributed mostly to a reduction in garbanzo bean acreage. Bean prices are down and the threat of Ascochyta blight is making production more difficult. **Flaxseed** growers in Montana planted an estimated 17,000 acres of the oilseed this season, up 21 percent from last year's acreage. Producers intend to harvest 15,000 acres of flaxseed this year, 25 percent more than the previous year.

In the U.S. **corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 78.9 million acres, up 4 percent from 2001 but down 1 percent from 2000. Growers expect to harvest 72.1 million acres for grain, up 5 percent from 2001. **Sugarbeet** area planted totaled 1.41 million acres in the12 sugarbeet producing States, down 1 percent from the March intentions but up 3 percent from 2001. The area for harvest is estimated at 1.37 million, 10 percent above 2001, when harvested acreage was reduced by the payment-in-kind diversion program. Producers expect to harvest 64.7 million acres of **all hay** in 2002, up less than 2 percent from 2001. This is the largest harvested acreage of all hay since 1988. **Alfalfa** and **alfalfa mixture** are estimated at 24.1 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, published in the Crop Production 2001 Summary, were 6 percent higher in 2001 compared to 2000. All **other hay** is estimated at 40.6 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. U.S. **dry bean** growers planted 1.86 million acres for 2002, up 30 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. High prices for the 2001 crop have encouraged growers to plant more acres this year after last year's reduced crop. Estimated plantings are 6 percent above the March intentions. Eleven of the 18 producing States are increasing planted acreage this year. Six States are reducing their plantings and 1 State planted the same acreage. Acres to be harvested are forecast at 1.75 million, 40 percent above last year and 9 percent above 2000. North Dakota growers planted 750,000 acres, a gain of 70 percent from last year. Acreage planted to **flaxseed** in 2002 is 844,000 acres, up 44 percent from last year's planted area, and the largest area planted since 1979 when 922,000 acres were planted. Area for harvest, estimated at 821,000, is 42 percent above the harvested acres in 2001. In North Dakota growers planted 800,000 acres of flaxseed, up 45 percent from 2001. This is the largest flaxseed planted acreage in North Dakota since 1975.

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U.S. and Montana Sweet Cherry Production Forecast Down for 2002

For immediate release: July 8, 2002
For more information please contact: John Gibbons or Thomas Chard at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana's **sweet cherry** growers expect to produce 1,500 tons this year, a decrease of 26 percent from last year's 2,020 tons, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Growers indicate the late spring, snow during bloom set, and poor pollination as limiting factors to crop production. Bearing acres are also down this season as well.

U.S. **sweet cherry** production is forecast 203,985 tons, down 11 percent from 2001 and 1 percent below 2000. This is the lowest sweet cherry production since 1998 when 196,900 tons were produced.

The Washington crop, at 90,000 tons, is down 5 percent from the previous forecast and 15 percent below last year. Poor pollination and frost combined to reduce the Washington sweet cherry crop. Production in California is forecast at 65,000 tons, 18 percent more than last year. California's production was boosted by an increase in bearing acreage and good weather during bloom. The California forecast was carried forward from the June Crop Production report. The sweet cherry crop in Oregon is forecast at 39,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 2 percent from 2001. Oregon's production was decreased by poor weather during bloom, which more than offset an increase in bearing acres.

The Michigan sweet cherry crop is forecast at 5,500 tons, down 76 percent from last year and 72 percent below 2000. Most sweet cherry producing areas in Michigan received below freezing temperatures in April and May that killed buds or blossoms. Cold, wet, and windy conditions also limited pollination.

Idaho is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 1,700 tons, up 21 percent from last year but 43 percent below 2000. The Idaho crop suffered some freeze damage but not quite as severely as the frost that hit the 2001 crop. Utah is forecasting sweet cherry production to be 400 tons, a decline of 43 percent from last year's crop. A hard frost in Utah has severely reduced fruit set.

New York and Pennsylvania are expecting smaller crops than last season, down 55 and 34 percent, respectively. Frost conditions severely limited crop potential in both States.

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Montana's All Wheat Production up 44 percent from 2001

For immediate release: July 11, 2002
For more information contact: John Gibbons or Thomas Chard at 1-800-835-2612

Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 45% higher than last year's drought-reduced crop, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Based on July 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest 140.11 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 96.57 million bushels harvested last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 4.88 million acres, up 16% from last year.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 33.0 bushels per acre, is up 3 bushels per acre from June and 11 bushels per acre higher than last year as rainfall during June increased yield potential. Production is forecast to be 26.40 million bushels, up 38% from last year due to the higher expected yield. Acres expected to be harvested is unchanged from the June forecast, but acreage is down 8% from last year to 800,000 acres. Winter wheat conditions aroung the state have seen significant improvement when compared to earlier this spring. Prior to receiving rainfall, conditions were rated for the week ending May 5 at 40% very poor, 22% poor, 29% fair, 8% good and 1% excellent. This compares with conditions for the week ending July 7 at 8% very poor, 20% poor, 43% fair, 24% good, and 5% excellent. Crop development continues to be behind normal as 17% of the crop was rated as turning color for the week ending July 7, compared with 57% last year and 45% for the 5-year average. While favorable weather conditions have led to improved yields, hot, dry weather since July 1 could reduce yield potential if those conditions continue.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 99.4 million bushels, up 52% from last year's drought-reduced production. The increased production is due to higher expected yields than last year and more harvested acres. The harvested acres are expected to be 3.55 million, up 25% due to more acres planted this year. The expected yield of 28.0 bushels per acre is up 5 bushels per acre from last year. Spring wheat conditions are much improved over a year ago as conditions for the week ending July 7 were rated 3% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 50% good, and 11% excellent compared with 16% very poor, 25% poor, 36% fair, 20% good, and 3% excellent last year. While the timing of the rainfall was very beneficial, yields could drop if the recent hot, dry weather continues through the rest of the growing season. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 14.31 million bushels, up 20% from last year due to a 7% increase in harvested acres to 530,000 acres and higher expected yield. The expected yield of 27.0 bushels per acre is up 3 bushels from last year.

Barley yields are expected to average 50.0 bushels per acre in 2002, 9 bushels better than last year. Barley production is forecast to be 47.50 million bushels compared with 29.52 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 950,000 acres, 230,000 more than harvested in 2001. **Oats** producers expect to harvest 4.59 million bushels of grain, 91% more than was produced last year. The 2002 area for harvest is expected to be 85,000 acres compared with 60,000 harvested for grain in 2001. The expected yield of 54.0 bushels is 14 bushels better than last year's yield.

Montana **potato** producers planted 9,000 acres during 2002, down 600 acres from last year. This is the smallest planted acreage since 1990, when growers also planted 9,000 acres. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 12, 2002. Pulse crop growers reduced their acreage this year. **Dry edible pea** farmers planted an estimated 27,000 acres during 2002, and expect to harvest 25,000 acres. Last year, growers planted 31,000 acres of edible peas and harvested just 21,000 acres. **Lentil** growers planted 15,000 acres this year, down 32% from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 14,000 of those acres for grain. Last year 22,000 acres of lentils were put in the ground, with 20,000 acres harvested. **Austrian winter pea** acreage is down this year. Seven thousand acres were planted during 2002, while 9,900 were planted last year. Just 2,000 acres of this year's crop is expected to be harvested as peas, with the remaining acreage being hayed or grazed.

Nationally, **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.18 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1971. The production forecast is down 5% from last month and down 13% from 2001. The decline in production from the June forecast is due to a reduction in harvested acreage and a lower forecasted yield. Acres for harvest as grain are forecast at 29.8 million, 1% below the June forecast and down 5% from 2001. This is the smallest harvested acreage since 1917. The U.S. yield is forecast at 39.6 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from last month. Hard red winter, at 634 million bushels, is down 6% from a month ago. White winter is down 1% this month and now totals 203 million bushels. Soft red winter, at 341 million bushels, is down 5% from the last forecast. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 84.1 million bushels, up 1% from 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 31.3 bushels per acre, 1.3 bushels more than last year. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 486 million bushels, down 5% from 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 32.0 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels lower than last year. Of this total, 443 million is hard red spring wheat, down 7% from last season.

Oat production in the U.S. is forecast at 148 million bushels, 26% above last year's 117 million bushels. The forecasted yield is 56.1 bushels per acre, down 5.2 bushels from 2001. Area for harvest is estimated at 2.63 million acres, up 38% from last year. U.S. **barley** production for 2002 is forecast at 265 million bushels, 6% above 2001. Based on July 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 59.0 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from last year. Area harvested, at 4.50 million acres, is up 210,000 acres from 2001.

Planted acreage of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 190,000 acres, down 5% from last year and 12% less than 2000. Harvested acreage is estimated at 187,000, down 5% from last year. Planted acreage of **dry edible peas** for 2002 is estimated at 271,500 acres, up 28% from last year and 44% above 2000. Planted acreage of **Austrian winter peas** in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon is estimated at 15,000 acres and harvested acreage is estimated at 9,000 acres.

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July Agricultural Labor Survey

For immediate release: July 12, 2002
For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service will be collecting data for the Quarterly Agricultural Labor Survey beginning Monday, July 15 and continue until July 30th. Estimates of farm employment are used for a variety of purposes by State and Federal governments, educational institutions, farmer organizations, and private sector employers of agricultural labor. The following are some examples of how farm employment estimates are used:

- USDA uses farm worker data to analyze changes in farm policy and to formulate farm productivity indexes. The inclusion of wage rate data in the Parity Index (Index on Prices Paid by Farmers) is required by law.

- Farm worker data are an important component of personal and national income for the agricultural sector of the Gross Domestic Product.

- Federal regulations that determine the minimum wage rates for domestic and foreign agricultural workers in the U.S. also use the Agricultural Labor Survey data as a major input into the calculations.

Information will be collected based on the reference week of Sunday, July 7 through Saturday, July 13. Questions asked will be in regards to the total number of unpaid, paid, and contract or custom workers; the total number of hours worked for each; and the total gross wages given to paid and contract or custom workers. Only 131 operations in Montana will be included in this important survey, so every response is critical.

Montana operations selected to participate in the survey will be notified by letter, and phone interviewers will contact them starting on July 15 to complete this survey. By law, all information supplied during the interview is kept confidential. Regional and national farm labor estimates will be released to the public on August 16.

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Montana Cash Rents for 2002

For immediate release: July 12, 2002
For more information please contact: Eric Siebens or Thomas Chard at 1-800-935-2612

The average cash rent for Montana cropland went down $0.50 from last year to $24.00 per acre, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland, at $46.50, increased by $.50 per acre from a year ago. The non-irrigated cropland average increased $.50 to $18.50 per acre. Average pasture rents increased $.50 from 2001 to $5.00 per acre in 2002.

Low commodity prices and extended drought in large areas of the U. S. have moderated the long term trend towards higher cash rents. The U.S. cropland cash rent in 2002 was up $.50 from last year to $71.50 per acre. The Lake, Corn Belt, and Northern Plains Regions, which account for the majority of cash rented acreage, increased 2 percent from 2001. The Lake Region was up $1.00 to $74.00 per acre, while the Corn Belt increased by $3.00 to $109.00. However, five of the ten regions decreased from last year, with the Pacific Region having the largest decline at $5.00 per acre.

The major corn producing states of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa all showed increases for cropland cash rents. Illinois had the highest cash rent at $124.00, and the highest rent increase, at $5.00 per acre. Iowa increased by $3.00 to $120.00 per acre. Three of the four states in the Northern Plains showed increases in cropland cash rents, but Kansas remained the same at $39.00 per acre. Arizona, California, Idaho, Nebraska, Oregon, and Washington all showed irrigated cropland cash rents exceeding $110 per acre. California again had the highest cash rent for irrigated cropland at $300 per acre.

Pasture cash rent at the U.S. level was unchanged from last year at $9.20 per acre. Increases for the Corn Belt, Lake States, Southeast, and Delta Regions were offset by decreases in the Northeast, Northern Plains, Appalachian, and Mountain Regions.

Wisconsin again had the highest pasture rent at $38.00 per acre, an increase of $2.00 over last year. Pasture rent changes in the major States offset each other as Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Colorado showed decreases while Montana, Oklahoma, and Missouri showed increases. Texas and Kansas showed no change from last year.

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Agricultural Prices Received for June 2002

For immediate release: July 31, 2002
For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

June full month crop prices were mixed compared with May 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.08 per bushel, up $0.09 from the previous month; spring wheat jumped $0.14 to $3.08 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.18 to $3.53 per bushel. The average price received for oats increased $0.02 to $2.24 per bushel. Feed barley prices fell $0.27 from the previous month to $1.92, but malt barley prices rose $0.08 to $3.01 per bushel.

The mid-July price for alfalfa hay was down $3.00 to $85.00 per ton and all other hay dropped $6.00 to $76.00 per ton. The mid-July grain prices were mostly all higher with winter wheat price averaging $3.24 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.41; durum wheat was $3.68; feed barley was $1.95; and malt barley averaged $3.10.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices dropped $0.30 to $76.50 per cwt, while cows fell $0.60 to $40.20. The average price for calves fell $1.60 to $91.30 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $2.20 to $24.10 per cwt and lamb prices jumped $10.10 to $76.60 per cwt. Milk prices dropped $1.30 per cwt from last month to $11.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $73.10 per cwt.; cows averaged $36.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $90.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for June and changes from May were as follows: winter wheat was $2.91, up $0.18, spring wheat was $2.98, up $0.08; durum wheat was $3.40, up $0.03; the all barley price was $2.08, down $0.16, and steer and heifer prices were $67.00, down $1.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-July winter wheat price was $3.18 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.29 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.71 per bushel, all wheat was $3.22 per bushel, malt barley was $2.39 per bushel, feed barley was $1.89 per bushel, and all barley was $2.07. Steer and heifer prices were $ 66.10 per cwt, cow prices were $37.70, calves were $93.20 per cwt., all hog prices were $38.20 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.576 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July was 100, based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.0 percent) from the June index. Higher prices for wheat, soybeans, hogs, and corn more than offset decreased prices for broilers, milk, eggs, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for grapes, wheat, tobacco, and tomatoes more than offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloupe, potatoes, and asparagus.

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Montana and U.S. Farm Real Estate Values Up

For immediate release: August 2, 2002
For more information please contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

The average value of farm real estate in Montana on January 1, 2002 was $384 per acre, up $9.00 from 2001, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The average value of cropland rose $8.00 to $510 per acre, compared with a year ago. The average value of irrigated cropland was $1,530, $30 more than a year ago, while non-irrigated cropland gained $5.00 per acre to $365 per acre on January 1, 2002. Pasture values increased $5 to $260 per acre. Montana farm real estate values have been steadily increasing over the past five years.

The U.S. farm real estate value, including all land and buildings, averaged $1,210 per acre as of January 1, 2002, up 5.2 percent from the previous year. All states except Delaware, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington showed gains from last year. The $60 per acre increase in farm real estate values continued a climb that began in 1987. The overall increase followed cropland and pasture values, which rose by 4.4 and 5.0 percent, respectively, during 2002. Cropland values had been increasing by more than 5 percent a year, so this represents a slower rate of increase than previous years, likely due to low commodity prices and drought in western States.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 3.0 to 8.7 percent. The Lake States and Southeast regions, at $1,870 and $2,260 per acre, showed the largest percentage gains from last year, at 8.7 and 7.1 percent, respectively. All regions again posted record highs with the exceptions of the Southern and Northern Plains. The Northeast region, with its urban influences, had the highest average value of farm real estate at $2,810 per acre. The Mountain region, with its expanse of pasture and rangeland, has the lowest value at $507 per acre.

Dollar value increases of farm real estate, cropland and pasture for states on the East Coast are the largest in the country. Despite drought in several of these states, price competition from increased urbanization and development has likely more than offset any downward pressures on land values. Pasture values outpace those of cropland in many of these states, often due to its greater appeal and availability for development.

The average value of cropland in the U.S. rose 4.4 percent to $1,650 per acre. The largest percent increases, at 8.6 and 5.3 percent, were in the Lake States and Northeast regions, respectively. Cropland values were highest in the Pacific region, at $3,710 per acre, and lowest in the Northern Plains, at $719 per acre.

Cropland values varied widely across States due to different circumstances and competitive uses of land. The impact of suburban and resort influences in states such as Wisconsin, Vermont, and Arizona resulted in continued above average gains in cropland values. Washington was the only state to show a decrease, dropping 1.5 percent from 2001, and continuing a decline that began in 1999. Poor commodity prices, concerns about the availability of irrigation water, and difficulty in securing financing have combined to hold cropland values down in Washington.

The average value per acre for pasture in the U.S. increased 5.0 percent, with the great majority of States going up. The Mountain and Southern Plains regions, accounting for half of the pastureland in the U.S., both showed increases from 2001. Pasture values were highest in the Northeast, at $2,330 per acre, and lowest in the Northern Plains, at $251 per acre.

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Hog and Sheep County Estimates Now Available

For immediate release: August 9, 2002
For more information please contact: John Gibbons or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Livestock county estimates for January 1, 2002 sheep and lamb inventory and December 1, 2001, hog and pig inventory are now available in printed form from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service or you may find them under county data on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. The county and district estimates are based on livestock surveys conducted at the end of 2001 and beginning of 2002. Questionnaires were sent to a sample of farmers and ranchers throughout Montana asking for information on their livestock inventories. Thanks to all the farmers and ranchers who participated in the survey!

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Montana's All Wheat Production Down 19 Percent from Last Month

For immediate release: August 12, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612

Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 19 percent lower than last month's forecast, but still 18 percent higher than last year's drought-reduced crop. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest 113.76 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 96.57 million bushels harvested last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 4.88 million acres, unchanged from last month, but up 16 percent from last year. This is the last forecast until the final small grains summary is published on September 30, 2002.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 30.0 bushels per acre, is down 3 bushels per acre from July, but 8 bushels per acre higher than last year. Production is forecast to be 24.0 million bushels, up 25 percent from last year. While the rainfall earlier in the growing season helped plant counts for fields that survived, the extreme heat, winds, and lack of rainfall during July caused poor pollination and fertilization, resulting in plants with lighter head weights or no heads at all. Acreage expected to be harvested is unchanged from the July forecast, but is down 8 percent from last year to 800,000 acres. Winter Wheat condition ratings for the week ending August 4 are still better than a year ago and were rated 7 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 55 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Winter wheat crop progress is still behind a year ago due to the cool spring conditions and late breaking of dormancy. However, weather conditions have sped up crop progress during the past month. Winter wheat was rated 64 percent ripe compared with 89 percent last year and the 5-average of 85 percent. Harvest is still behind at 30 percent complete compared with 60 percent last year and 56 percent for the 5-year average.

Spring wheat production forecast is 78.1 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year's drought-reduced production. The expected yield of 22.0 bushels per acre is down 6 bushels from last month and down 1 bushel from last year. The increased production is due to larger area for harvest at 3.55 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 25 percent from last year. The yield potential and condition of the spring wheat crop deteriorated during the month due to the heat and lack of rainfall. The crop was rated 5 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 50 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Weather conditions during the past month have rapidly sped up crop progress and development is nearing last year and the 5-year average. Ripe was rated 20 percent for the week ending August 4 compared with 34 percent last year and the average of 25 percent. Harvest is just underway with 7 percent complete compared with 8 percent last year and 7 percent for the 5-year average. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 11.66 million bushels, down 2 percent from last year and down 19 percent from last month. The expected yield of 22.0 bushels per acre is down 5 bushels from last month and down 2 bushels from last year. Harvested acres are unchanged from the previous month at 530,000 acres.

Barley yields are expected to average 45.0 bushels per acre in 2002, 4 bushels better than last year. Barley production is forecast to be 42.75 million bushels compared with 29.52 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 950,000 acres, 230,000 more than harvested in 2001. For the week ending August 4, barley condition was reported to be 7 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Harvest was reported to be 9 percent complete.

Oat producers expect to harvest 4.08 million bushels of grain, 70 percent more than was produced last year. The 2002 area for harvest is expected to be 85,000 acres compared with 60,000 harvested for grain in 2001. The expected yield of 48.0 bushels is 8 bushels better than last year's yield. As of August 4 the condition of the oat crop was reported to be 8 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Harvest was reported to be 7 percent complete for the week ending August 4.

Sugar beet production is forecasted to be 1.197 million tons, up 4 percent from last year. The expected yield, at 21.0 tons per acre is down slightly from the 21.5 tons per acre last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 57,000 acres, up 3,500 acres from last year. **Dry edible bean** growers expect to harvest 21,000 of the 24,000 planted acres this year. Harvested acreage is estimated to be down 3,000 acres from 2001. Yield is estimated at 1,700 cwt., 320 cwt. per acre better than the previous year. All dry bean production is expected to be 357,000 cwt., up 8 percent from last year's figure. By class, 14,500 acres of **pintos**, 8,000 acres of **garbanzos**, and 500 acres of **other** beans were planted in 2002. A decrease in planting of large seed type garbanzo beans is leading the overall reduction in bean acreage this year. Subsequently, all bean yield is up based on the larger percentage of irrigated pintos to all beans.

-more-

Alfalfa hay is expected to yield 2.00 tons per acre in 2002, down 0.10 tons per acre from the previous year. Growers plan to harvest 1.7 million acres, up significantly from last year's 1.45 million acres. Production is expected at 3.40 million tons, a 12 percent increase over the 2001 figure. As of August 4 , 98 percent of first cutting and 32 percent of second cutting had been completed on alfalfa hay. The average yield for **other hay** is forecast to be 1.50 tons per acre, up 0.10 tons per acre from last year. Production on the 1.150 million acres of other hay expected to be harvested is forecast at 1.73 million tons, an increase of 23 percent from 2001. As of August 4, 90 percent of first cutting and 16 percent of second cutting of other hay had been completed. Hay acres for harvest are up this season partially due to increased precipitation. Changes in Government regulations that allow for cutting of CRP hay are also affecting acreage.

Nationally, the final **Winter wheat** production forecast is 1.16 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1971. This is down 2 percent from last month, and 15 percent below 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 38.9 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushels from last month. Other **Spring wheat** production is forecast at 448 million bushels, down 8 percent from last month and 13 percent below 2001. Acreage intended for harvest is unchanged from last month. The U.S. yield is forecast at 29.5 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than July 1. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 79.5 million bushels, down 5 percent from last month and 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 29.5 bushels per acre, 1.8 bushels less than last month. There were no changes in acreage intended for harvest.

Barley production in United States for 2002 is forecast at 252 million bushels, down 5 percent from the July forecast, but 1 percent above 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 55.9 bushels per acre, down 3.1 bushels from July and down 2.3 bushels from last year. Area harvested, at 4.50 million acres, is unchanged from the July estimate, but up 210,000 acres from 2001. U.S. **oat** production for 2002 is forecast at 143 million bushels, 3 percent less than the July 1 forecast, but 22 percent above last year's 117 million bushels. The forecasted yield is 54.2 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels below the July 1 forecast and down 7.1 bushels from 2001. If realized, this would be the lowest yield since 1991.

U.S. **sugar beet** production for 2002 is forecast at 27.6 million tons. If realized, this would be 7 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1.35 million acres, 1 percent less than the June estimate, but 9 percent more than last year. The yield is forecast at 20.4 tons per acre, 0.3 ton below 2001. **Dry edible bean** production in the United States is forecast at 27.2 million cwt in 2002, up 39 percent from last year and 3 percent above two years ago. This is the largest dry bean crop since 1999 when production was 33.1 million cwt. This increase is a rebound from last year's drought reduced production in eastern and central States.

Alfalfa production is forecast at 74.6 million tons in the United States, down 7 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.09 tons, down 0.28 ton from last year. Harvested area is 24.1 million acres, unchanged from the June estimate, but up 1 percent from 2001. The decrease in yields, compared to 2001, is due to the poor growing conditions experienced in most areas of the country during July. The yield in all but 6 States is at or below last year's level. **Other Hay** production forecast for 2002 is 78.0 million tons, up 2 percent from 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.92 tons per acre, down slightly from last year.

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Montana July 2002 Red Meat Production Up 31 Percent from the Previous Year

For immediate release: August 23, 2002
For more information contact: John Gibbons or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 2002, up 31 percent from July 2001 and equal to the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, up from 1,500 head one year ago. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 1,145 pounds.

During July there were1,600 hogs slaughtered, compared with 1,200 one year ago. The average live weight, at 234 pounds, was up 2 pounds from last year. July sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, unchanged from July 2001. The average live weight increased 6 pounds to 118 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in July, up 10 percent from the 3.64 billion pounds produced in July 2001 and a new record high for July. Beef production, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 11 percent above the previous year and a new record high for July. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.19 million head, up 8 percent from July 2001. The average live weight was 1,248 pounds, up 32 pounds from July a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.7 million pounds, 6 percent above July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95,700 head, up 15 percent from July 2001. The average live weight was 290 pounds, down 22 pounds from July a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and a new record high for July. Hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 8 percent above July 2001. The average live weight was 260 pounds, unchanged from July a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from July 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 257,600 head, 6 percent above last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, down 13 pounds from July a year ago.

January - July red meat production was 27.0 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

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Agricultural Prices Received for July 2002

For immediate release: August 30, 2002
For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

July full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with June 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.41 per bushel, up $0.33 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.23 to $3.31 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.08 to $3.61 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.16 from the previous month to $2.08, but malt barley prices fell $0.07 to $2.94 per bushel.

The mid-August price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 to $86.00 per ton and all other hay increased $1.00 to $77.00 per ton. The mid-August grain prices were mostly all higher with winter wheat price averaging $3.65 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.65; durum wheat was $3.85; feed barley was $1.81; and malt barley averaged $2.90.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices dropped $1.70 to $74.80 per cwt, while cows fell $4.10 to $36.70. The average price for calves fell $1.30 to $90.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $0.60 to $24.70 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $2.50 to $79.10 per cwt. Milk prices increased $1.00 per cwt from last month to $12.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $74.70 per cwt.; cows averaged $36.50 per cwt.; calves averaged $88.10 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.40 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for July and changes from June were as follows: winter wheat was $3.19, up $0.33, spring wheat was $3.30, up $0.23; durum wheat was $3.61, up $0.08; the all barley price was $2.11, up $0.11, and steer and heifer prices were $66.60, down $1.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-August winter wheat price was $3.65 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.65 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.85 per bushel, all wheat was $3.66 per bushel, malt barley was $2.90 per bushel, feed barley was $1.81 per bushel, and all barley was $2.28. Steer and heifer prices were $ 74.70 per cwt, cow prices were $36.50, calves were $88.10 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.20 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.439 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August was 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the July index. Higher prices for corn, wheat, strawberries, and lettuce more than offset decreased prices for hogs, broilers, grapes, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and strawberries.

The current All Farm Products Index is 9 points (8.2 percent) below August, 2001. Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and lettuce more than offset higher prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and grapes. The Food Commodities Index increased by 1 point (1.0 percent) over last month to 99, but was 14 points (12 percent) below August last year.

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Montana 2001 Potato Production Drops 6 percent, U.S. Drops 15 percent

For immediate release: September 19, 2002

For more information please contact: John Gibbons or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Montana's 2001 potato production totaled 3,296,000 cwt., 6 percent below last year and 1 percent lower than 1999's production. Producers harvested 10,300 acres, 1,000 less than a year ago and 600 acres fewer than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 320 cwt. per acre compared with 310 cwt. in 2000 and 305 cwt. in 1999.

Value of production from the 2001 crop was $30.2 million, up 50 percent from 2000. The average price was $9.15 per cwt., an increase of $3.40 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 2001 potato crop totaled $27.0 million, which is 78 percent above last year's crop. Producers sold 2,956,000 cwt. from the 2001 crop compared with 2,638,000 cwt. a year ago.

Total **U.S.** 2001 potato production is estimated at 438 million cwt., 2 percent below the estimate made in the Annual Crop Summary in January and down 15 percent from the record high 2000 crop. Harvested area, at 1.22 million acres, shrank 9 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 358 cwt. per acre was down 23 cwt. from 2000 and 1 cwt. below the average yield from the 1999 crop. By season, winter production dropped 17 percent, spring slipped less than 1 percent, summer fell 5 percent, and fall dropped 16 percent from the previous year.

Winter and spring seasonal estimates were carried forward from earlier revisions. Summer potato production was revised to 18.2 million cwt. for 2001, down 5 percent from 2000. Harvested area, at 58,800 acres, was down 7 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 310 ct. per acre was record high for summer potatoes and 6 cwt. above the previous year.

Fall potatoes were finalized at 394 million cwt. for 2001, down 16 percent from the record high crop of 2000. Area harvested in 2001 was estimated at 1.07 million acres, down 10 percent from a year earlier. The average yield, at 367 cwt. per acre, was down 25 cwt. from the record high a year ago. Final production of fall potatoes was 2 percent below both the Annual Crop Summary in January and the first forecast made in November 2001.

Value of all potato production in 2001 was estimated at a record high $3.06 billion, up 18 percent from the previous year. The average price, at $6.99 per cwt., jumped $1.91 from a year earlier.

Sales from the 2001 potato crop totaled 401 million cwt., down 14 percent from 2000. Sales accounted for 92 percent of 2001 production. Non sales accounted for 36.6 million cwt., down 25 percent from the previous year. Over the past five years, 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other 9 percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Processors used 251 million cwt. of raw potatoes from the 2001 crop, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 122 million cwt., 12 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 25.1 million cwt. were up 8 percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 3.50 million cwt., were down 65 percent from a year earlier. A government diversion program at the end of the 2000 potato marketing year purchased 6.87 million cwt. of potatoes that were fed to livestock. Current feeding is more in line with the feed utilization of 3.14 million cwt. in 1999. Chip potato use totaled 54.1 million cwt. in 2001, up 3 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 150 million cwt. of raw potatoes, down 13 percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 40.7 million cwt., a drop of 26 percent. Canning use, at 4.31 million cwt., declined 15 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 1.16 million cwt. of potatoes, down 41 percent from the previous year.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 31.2 million cwt. for 2001, down 29 percent from 2000. Livestock feed on potato farms and home use totaled 1.25 million cwt., a decrease of 16 percent. Growers kept 4.14 million cwt. for seed on their own farms, up 9 percent from a year earlier.

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Maltsters and Brewers Purchased 7.5 Million Bushels of the 2001 Barley Crop

For immediate release: September 25, 2002
For more information please contact: John Gibbons or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Maltsters and brewers purchased 7.5 million bushels of Montana's 2001 barley crop to make malt, down 42 percent from 2000, according to a recent survey conducted by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. The average protein of the 2001 malting crop was 12.2 percent, which is 0.2 point less than the average protein obtained from the 2000 crop.

Montana growers seeded 1.10 million acres of barley in 2001, down 150,000 acres from 2000. Of the total, over 650,000 acres were seeded to malting type varieties. If the yield of malting varieties equaled the state average yield per planted acre for all barley, then approximately 17.4 million bushels of malting type would have been produced. Because only 7.5 million bushels were used for malt, the remaining 9.9 million bushels did not make the malting grade or exceeded demand for malting barley. The barley utilized for malt represented approximately 26 percent of the 2001 total barley crop compared with 34 percent in both 2000 and 1999.

Anheuser Busch varieties were the most frequently purchased by maltsters and brewers and represented 46.3 percent of the total purchases. Harrington varieties were the second most commonly purchased. Seventy-one percent of all malt barley purchased was grown in North Central Montana. South Central Montana growers produced over 17 percent of the total.

VARIETY	CROP YEAR 1/	DISTRICTS					STATE	
		N. Central 2/	Central	Southwest	S. Central	Southeast 3/	Bushels	Protein
ANHEUSER-BUSCH VARIETIES	1999	5,345,000	645,000		500,000		6,490,000	12.6
	2000	4,615,000	390,000		530,000		5,535,000	12.2
	2001	3,490,000					3,490,000	12.0
GALENA	1999	680,000					680,000	11.4
	2000	108,000					108,000	12.6
	2001							
HARRINGTON	1999	8,434,000	1,020,000	173,000	500,000		10,127,000	12.9
	2000	4,272,800	325,700	237,600	366,000	28,600	5,230,700	12.8
	2001	1,785,000	169,000	372,000	125,000	17,000	2,468,000	12.7
MORAVIAN 22	1999	112,400			1,425,000		1,537,400	11.3
	2000				1,625,000		1,625,000	11.6
	2001							
MORAVIAN 37	1999							
	2000	120,000					120,000	12.6
	2001		75,000		1,220,000		1,295,000	11.8
MOREX	1999	196,000	295,700				491,700	12.7
	2000	80,700		337,400			418,100	12.6
	2001		30,000	134,000			164,000	11.8
OTHER	1999	48,100	15,700				63,800	12.1
	2000	16,200					16,200	13.2
	2001	71,000	27,000	23,000			121,000	13.1
TOTAL	1999	14,815,500	1,976,400	173,000	2,425,000		19,389,900	12.6
	2000	9,212,700	715,700	575,000	2,521,000	28,600	13,053,000	12.4
	2001	5,346,000	301,000	529,000	1,345,000	17,000	7,538,000	12.2

1/ Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30 2/ Includes Northwest 3/ Includes Northeast

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Agricultural Prices Received for August 2002

For immediate release: September 30, 2002
For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

August full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with July 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.65 per bushel, up $0.24 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.32 to $3.63 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.17 to $3.78 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.01 from the previous month to $2.09, malt barley prices increased $0.28 to $3.22 per bushel.

The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was down $1.00 to $85.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $2.00 to $75.00 per ton. The mid-August grain prices were mostly all higher with winter wheat price averaging $4.35 per bushel; spring wheat was $4.45; durum wheat was $4.20; feed barley was $2.05; and malt barley averaged $3.10.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $0.10 to $74.90 per cwt, while cows fell $0.10 to $36.60. The average price for calves increased $1.60 to $91.60 per cwt. Sheep prices fell $1.00 to $23.70 per cwt and lamb prices moved down $3.20 to $75.90 per cwt. Milk prices dropped $0.50 per cwt from last month to $11.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-September averaged $76.20 per cwt.; cows averaged $36.10 per cwt.; calves averaged $92.10 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for August and changes from July were as follows: winter wheat was $3.63, up $0.44, spring wheat was $3.66, up $0.35; durum wheat was $3.55, down $0.06; the all barley price was $2.70, up $0.59, and steer and heifer prices were $67.10, up $0.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-September winter wheat price was $4.00 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.23 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.00 per bushel, all wheat was $4.07 per bushel, malt barley was $2.83 per bushel, feed barley was $2.06 per bushel, and all barley was $2.49. Steer and heifer prices were $67.60 per cwt, cow prices were $35.40, calves were $93.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $26.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.579 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in September was 99, based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the August index. Lower prices for hogs, potatoes, lettuce, and strawberries more than offset increased prices for wheat, corn, broccoli, and broilers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of cattle, wheat, broilers, and grapes more than offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, peanuts, and potatoes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is also 7 points (6.6 percent) below September 2001. Lower prices for milk, broilers, hogs, and lettuce more than offset higher prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and broccoli.

The Food Commodities Index decreased 1 point (1.0 percent) below last month to 97, and was 11.0 percent below September last year.

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September 1, 2002 Grain Stocks

For immediate release: September 30, 2002
For more information contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on September 1, 2002 were 143.3 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago due to increased production, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 116.0 million bushels, up 12 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 27.3 million bushels, up 6 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the June - August 2002 quarter was up 35 percent from the same quarter last year to 24.6 million bushels, compared with 18.7 million a year ago. Wheat stocks by class and by district are no longer available due to funding cuts by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2002 were 40.8 million bushels, up 30 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 36.0 million bushels, up 44 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was down 24 percent from a year ago to 4.8 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were 2.9 million bushels, up 12 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 2.8 million bushels, up 12 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were up 14 percent from last year to 95,000 bushels.

United States, all wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 2002 totaled 1.74 billion bushels, down 19 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 588 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.15 billion bushels, are down 21 percent from a year ago. The indicated June - August 2002 disappearance is 662 million bushels, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions in the United States on September 1, 2002 totaled 93.1 million bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 66.5 million bushels, are up 5 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 26.6 million bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. The indicated June - August 2002 disappearance of 20.2 million bushels is down 36 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2002 totaled 224 million bushels, down 9 percent from September, 2001. On-farm stocks are estimated at 132 million bushels, 2 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 92.4 million bushels, are 16 percent below September 2001. Indicated disappearance during the June - August 2002 quarter totaled 95.7 million bushels, down 13 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on September 1, 2002 totaled 111 million bushels, 4 percent below the stocks on September 1, 2001. Of the total stocks on hand, 70.5 million bushels were stored on farms, 6 percent less than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 41.0 million bushels, 1 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during June - August 2002 totaled 70.9 million bushels, 3 percent less than the same period a year ago.

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September 2002 Small Grain Summary

For immediate release: September 30, 2002
For more information please contact: Thomas Chard or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

All wheat production, at 114.0 million bushels, is up 18 percent from last year's poor crop of 96.6 million bushels, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. **Montana's 2002 winter wheat** production was 21.0 million bushels, up 10 percent from last year's crop due to higher yields compared to 2001. Producers seeded 1.45 million acres, up 150,000 acres from 2001. However, due to dry planting conditions, winter kill, and poor spring weather conditions, producers were only able to harvested 750,000 acres, 120,000 acres less than what was harvested in 2001. Based on the percentage of planted acres harvested at 51.7 percent, this is the fourth lowest percentage on record. Only the years of 1925, 1936, and 1931 had lower percentages of planted acres harvested. The 2002 average yield for the remaining acres was 28.0 bushels per acre, 6 bushels higher than last year. Timely rains during June helped boost plant counts and improved head weights over the previous year for the acres that were not abandoned. This year's yield is still well below the 10-year-average yield of 34.7 bushels per acre.

Spring wheat production in Montana was 80.5 million bushels, up 23 percent from 2001 due to higher harvested acres. The final seeded acreage was 3.75 million acres, up 200,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 3.5 million acres, up 650,000 acres from last year. Yields averaged 23.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from 2001, but still well below the 10 year average yield of 29.3 bushels per acre. High temperatures, wind, and lack of moisture experienced during the critical stages of crop development reduced yield potential from earlier forecasts in the growing season.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 590,000 acres, up 16 percent from last year. Producers harvested 570,000 acres, up 75,000 acres from 2001. The average yield was 22.0 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels per acre from last year. Total production was estimated at 12.5 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year due to higher harvested acres. The 2002 production is the third highest on record with only 2000 and 1956 having higher production.

Acreage seeded to **barley** in Montana increased to 1.20 million, 100,000 acres more than the previous year. Producers harvested 950,000 acres, 230,000 more than were harvested for grain in 2001. Final yields averaged 42.0 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year, but down 3 bushels from our previous forecast. Production was estimated at 39.9 million bushels, up 35 percent from last year due to higher harvested acres.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 2.70 million bushels, up 13 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 145,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from last year. Harvested acreage was set at 55,000 acres, down 5,000 from 2001. Yields averaged 49.0 bushels per acre, 9.0 bushels above last year due to more irrigated acres being harvested this year.

United States **all wheat** production totaled 1.62 billion bushels in 2002, down 4 percent from the last forecast and 17 percent below 2001. This is the lowest production since 1972. Grain area is 46.0 million acres, down 5 percent from last year and the smallest area harvested since 1970. The U.S. yield is 35.3 bushels per acre, down 4.9 bushels from a year ago. Levels of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.14 billion bushels, down 16 percent; other spring wheat, 402 million bushels, down 22 percent; and Durum wheat, 80.2 million bushels, down 4 percent.

The 2002 United States **winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.14 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1970. This is down 1 percent from the August forecast and 16 percent below the 2001 level. The U.S. yield decreased 0.4 bushel from August to 38.5 bushels per acre. This is 5.0 bushels below last year's final yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 29.7 million acres, down slightly from the last forecast. This is the smallest harvested area since 1917. Planted area is 41.7 million acres, up 1 percent from the last forecast.

Other spring wheat production in 2002 is estimated at 402 million bushels, down 10 percent from the last forecast and 22 percent below 2001. Harvested area is 13.6 million acres, 10 percent lower than the final forecast, primarily due to drought induced abandonment in the Dakotas. North Dakota and South Dakota accounted for 1.35 million of the 1.56 million acre reduction in harvested acres since the August forecast. The U.S. yield is 29.5 bushels per acre, unchanged from the last forecast, but 5.7 bushels below last season.

Durum production in the United States for 2002 totaled 80.2 million bushels, up 1 percent from August 1, but 4 percent less than last year. Grain area totals 2.76 million acres, up 2 percent from the last forecast but 1 percent below a year ago. The U.S. yield is estimated at 29.1 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushel from the last forecast and 0.9 bushel per acre below 2001. North Dakota's durum harvest was 83 percent complete as of September 22, well behind last year's pace.

U.S. **oats** production is estimated at 119 million bushels, 16 percent below the August 1 forecast, but 2 percent above last year's record low 117 million bushels. The estimated yield is 56.8 bushels per acre, 2.6 bushels above the August 1 forecast, but 4.6 bushels below 2001. Area for harvest is estimated at 2.10 million acres, 20 percent below the August 1 estimate but up 10 percent from a year ago. Compared with the August 1 estimate, acres harvested for grain dropped 150,000 in South Dakota and 140,000 in North Dakota. Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, and Wisconsin had smaller, but significant, reductions from August.

Barley production in the United States is estimated at 227 million bushels, down 10 percent from the August forecast and down 9 percent from last year's estimate. This year's production is the lowest since 1937. Average yield per acre, at 54.9 bushels, is down 1.0 bushel from August and down 3.3 bushels from 2001. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.14 million acres, down 8 percent from August and 4 percent below a year ago, and is the lowest level since 1898. Of the 364,000 acre decrease in harvested area since August, North Dakota accounted for 280,000 acres of the decline due to extremely dry conditions in the southern part of the State.

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October 1, 2002 All Hay Production Forecast Up 15 Percent from 2001

For immediate release: October 11, 2002
For more information contact: John Gibbons or Thomas Chard at 1-800-835-2612

Alfalfa hay yield in Montana remains unchanged from the August forecast of 2.0 tons per acre, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized this would be 0.1 ton per acre below last year's final estimate. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated to be 3.4 million tons, up 12 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage at 1.7 million for alfalfa also remained unchanged from August, but represents a 250,000 acre increase from 2001. **Other hay** yield did not change from August's forecast, and is estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, up 7 percent from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.73 million tons, up 23 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is unchanged from August at 1,150,000 acres, but up 150,000 acres from 2001. Late spring rains and approval to cut hay on CRP land throughout much of the state lead to an overall increase in harvested acreage this year. **All hay** production is estimated at 5.13 million tons, up 15 percent from last year.

Montana **sugar beet** production is forecast at 1.197 million tons, unchanged from last month's forecast, but up 4 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, at 21.0 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month, but is down 0.5 tons per acre from last year. Harvested acreage is forecast to be 57,000 acres, up 3,500 acres from last year. Sugar beet harvest is behind with 14 percent of the beets pulled for the week ending October 6th, compared with the 5-year average of 30 percent.

Nationally, **alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 74.7 million tons, virtually unchanged from August, but down 7 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.09 tons, which is the same as August, but down 0.28 ton from last year. Harvested area is 24.1 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate, but up 1 percent from 2001. The yield, in all but 7 States, is below or at last year's level. The severe drought conditions in the northern and central Great Plains and Rocky Mountains throughout the growing season continue to support a lower yield compared to last year.

Other hay production for the U.S. is forecast at 75.8 million tons, 3 percent below the August forecast, and 1 percent below last year. Yields are expected to average 1.87 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from the August forecast and 0.06 ton below 2001. Harvested acreage is estimated at 40.6 million, unchanged from the last forecast, but up 2 percent from 2001.

In the U.S., **sugar beet** production is forecast at 28.6 million tons, up slightly from the September 1 forecast and 11 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.37 million acres. This is unchanged from the September estimate, but 10 percent above last year. The yield is forecast at 20.9 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above September and 0.2 ton above 2001.

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Agricultural Prices Received for September 2002

For immediate release: October 31, 2002
For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

September full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with August 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.99 per bushel, up $0.34 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.83 to $4.46 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.63 to $4.41 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.04 from the previous month to $2.13, and malt barley prices decreased $0.11 to $3.11 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay was up $2.00 to $87.00 per ton and all other hay held steady at $75.00 per ton. The mid-October grain prices were mixed with winter wheat price averaging $4.39 per bushel; spring wheat was $4.89; durum wheat was $4.45; feed barley was $2.05; and malt barley averaged $3.05.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.50 to $76.40 per cwt, while cows fell $0.60 to $36.00. The average price for calves decreased $0.90 to $90.70 per cwt. Sheep prices fell $2.30 to $21.40 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $3.20 to $79.10 per cwt. Milk prices were up $0.20 per cwt from last month to $12.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October averaged $79.90 per cwt.; cows averaged $33.60 per cwt.; calves averaged $86.70 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was $4.14, up $0.51, spring wheat was $4.29, up $0.63; durum wheat was $4.20, up $0.65; the all barley price was $2.66, down $0.04, and steer and heifer prices were $68.00, up $0.90 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-October winter wheat price was $4.41 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.47 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.06 per bushel, all wheat was $4.41 per bushel, malt barley was $2.90 per bushel, feed barley was $2.26 per bushel, and all barley was $2.58. Steer and heifer prices were $67.80 per cwt, cow prices were $33.70, calves were $91.10 per cwt., all hog prices were $31.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.54 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October is 95, based on 1990-92=100, down 4 points (4.0 percent) from the September index. Lower prices for broilers, potatoes, corn, and soybeans more than offset increased prices for hogs, wheat, milk, and tobacco. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of wheat, milk, grapes, and tobacco more than offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and sorghum.

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November 1 Crop Production Forecast

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 12, 2002
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: John Gibbons or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

Spring wheat production was revised downward to 75.9 million bushels from 80.5 million bushels and **durum wheat** production was revised up to 13.0 million bushels from 12.54 million bushels, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Survey respondents who reported durum or other spring wheat acreage not yet harvested in Montana and North Dakota during the surveys conducted to prepare the Small Grains 2002 Summary were re-contacted to determine how many of these acres were actually harvested and record the actual production from those acres. Based on this updated information, harvested acreage was reduced for both durum and other spring wheat in these two States. Durum area declined 5,000 acres in Montana and 50,000 acres in North Dakota. Other spring wheat harvested area declined 50,000 and 100,000 acres in Montana and North Dakota, respectively. The Montana durum yield increased 1.0 bushel from the previous estimate, while the other spring wheat yield declined 1.0 bushel. North Dakota yields for both crops were unchanged from the previous estimate. **All wheat** production in the United States is 1.62 billion bushels, 17 percent below last year, and less than 1 percent lower than the previous estimate. Because unharvested production is a component of **on-farm stocks**, changes were made to the September 1 on-farm stocks levels comparable to the production adjustments.

Montana **dry edible pea** production is forecast to be 204,000 cwt, down 18 percent from last year's revised estimate. Due to a classification change in dry edible pea acreage, dry pea estimates no longer include desi chickpea acreage. Desi chickpea acreage is now included in the garbanzo dry bean acreage. Planted acreage for 2002 is estimated at 32,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres is estimated at 24,000 acres, up from 16,500 acres last year. The yield is forecast at 850 pounds per acre, down from 1,510 pounds per acre last year. The high temperatures during the growing season and lack of rainfall during the critical stages of crop development, severely reduced yields for dry peas and lentils.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana is forecasted to be 24,000 cwt, up 4,000 cwt from last year. Harvested acreage at 3,000 acres is expected to be up 500 acres from last year. Planted acreage for 2002 is estimated to be 9,500 acres, down 400 acres from last year. Most of the Austrian winter pea acres planted this year were harvested as forage or hay rather than for peas. The average yield is forecast to be 800 lbs per acre, up 10 lbs per acre from last year.

Lentil production in Montana is forecast to be 121,000 cwt for 2002, down 45 percent from last year. Planted acreage at 25,000 acres, is expected to be up 3,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres, at 22,000 acres, is up 2,000 acres from last year. Average yield is expected to be 550 lbs per acre down from 1,100 lbs last year.

Montana **sugar beets** production was forecast at 1.14 million tons, down 1 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, of 20.0 tons per acre, is down 1.5 tons per acre from 2001. Late planting and replanting of sugar beets and extreme heat during July and August reduced yields from a year ago. Harvested acreage is up 3,500 acres from last year to 57,000 acres.

Fall potato production in Montana is forecast to be 3.213 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,200 acres, down 100 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 315 cwt per acre, down 5 cwt per acre from the previous year. As of November 1, ninety-nine percent of the crop had been harvested which is 6 points ahead of the five-year average.

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2002 Census of Agriculture Begins to Count Montana's Farms

For immediate release: November 20, 2002
For more information contact: Peggy Stringer or Curtis Lund at 1-800-835-2612

Farm and ranch operators across America and Montana are about to participate in the Nation's largest, most detailed statistical portrait of U.S. agriculture – the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Conducted by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census will provide a comprehensive portrait of agriculture at the county, state, and national levels depicting how farms and ranches stand today compared with five years ago.

Census of agriculture report forms will be mailed to farm and ranch operators in late December to collect data for the 2002 calendar year. Operators must complete and return their forms by February 3, 2003.

Data provided by individual farmers and ranchers is held strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Statistical results are aggregated and published only in geographical summaries to prevent identification of individual farms.

New questions will collect information on multiple operators per farm, production contracts, certified organic acreage, grain storage capacity, computer and Internet use, and new commodities such as bison, deer, elk, llamas, emus, and ostriches. Other questions will be similar to those asked in previous censuses and will focus on key information such as acreage and land use, operator characteristics, crop and livestock production, and agricultural product sales.

Twenty-five percent of operators will also be asked about production expenses, fertilizers and chemicals, machinery and equipment, market value of land and buildings, and income from farm-related sources. Report forms are tailored by region to make them less burdensome and more relevant to respondents in different parts of the country.

How do census of agriculture results help farmers and ranchers?

- **Farm organizations, Congress, and State and local governments** have the facts needed to plan programs that help farmers and ranchers get the most for their investments.
- **Farm machinery manufacturers, grain elevators, slaughter and cold storage, and other agribusinesses** more effectively target their locations to where they are most needed by using county and State statistics, resulting in economic benefit for farm operators.
- **Seed and fertilizer producers** compare yields and other information to help operators do the most effective job.
- **Irrigation specialists, water resource developers, and irrigation equipment manufacturers** convert census knowledge into practical advice for farm operators.
- **State and national lawmakers** use census facts to determine where to allocate funds that will benefit agriculture producers.
- **Farm broadcasters and agricultural editors** convey census results to their audiences and use the data to help focus their stories on important areas of agriculture.
- **Researchers and legislators** use county-level data to define problem areas and help farmers recover from outbreaks of disease and pests.

A farm, for census purposes, is any place from which at least $1,000 worth of agricultural products were produced and sold or could have been sold during the census year. Because a key strength of the census is providing detailed facts about small farms, every response counts – whether from a large or very small operation. By responding completely and accurately, farmers and ranchers can make the 2002 Census of Agriculture an effective tool to help chart the future of their industry.

To find results from previous censuses and a wealth of current statistics on agriculture, visit www.usda.gov/nass/. Results from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be released in the spring of 2004.

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2002 Dry Edible Bean Production

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2002
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: John Gibbons or Curt Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

Production for Montana's **dry edible bean** crop was estimated at 374,000 cwt, down less than 1 percent from the 2001 crop, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Planted acreage for 2002 is estimated to be 26,500 acres, down 39 percent from last year. Harvested area for this year is 23,000 acres, 19 percent below 2001. The yield is forecast at 1,630 pounds per acre, 310 pounds better than last year.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated to be 289,000 cwt, which is 45 percent more than last year. Acres planted, at 13,500 is up 17 percent from 2001. Harvested acreage, at 13,100, is 31 percent higher than the previous year. The yield is forecast at 2,210 pounds per acre, 210 pounds better than last year. Better availability of irrigation water has led to this year's increase in acreage and production.

Garbanzo bean production is forecast at 77,000 cwt for 2002, compared with 171,000 cwt for last year. Planted acreage was set at 12,600 acres, down 60 percent from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 9,500 acres. The yield is forecast at 810 pounds per acre, down 15 percent from last year's 950 pounds per acre. Producers have suggested disease problems and limited marketing channels contributed to the reduction in garbanzo bean acreage.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 30.2 million cwt for 2002, up 9 percent from the October forecast and 54 percent above last year. This increase is a rebound from last year's drought reduced production in eastern and central States. Harvested area is forecast at 1.74 million acres, 3 percent above the last forecast and 39 percent above 2001. The average U.S. yield of 1,733 pounds per acre climbed 101 pounds above the October forecast and is 164 pounds greater than a year ago. Production is above a year ago in 10 of the 18 producing States. Most notable are a six-fold increase in Michigan after last year's drought and a 70 percent gain in North Dakota where planted acres are record high. Production is up from last year for all classes except garbanzo, blackeye, great northern, and small white. Navies are up 130 percent, pinto's climbed 49 percent, and blacks are almost quadrupled from last year. Small red, baby lima, cranberry, and pink are also up sharply.

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Montana Agricultural Statistics 2002 Bulletins Available

For immediate release: December 19, 2002
For more information contact: Peggy Stringer or Curtis Lund at 1-800-835-2612.

The thirty-ninth edition of the *Montana Agricultural Statistics 2002* bulletin is available to the public. Ralph Peck, Director of Montana Department of Agriculture, comments, "In this 39th annual edition of *Montana Agricultural Statistics* (available in printed or electronic format) our agricultural industry will find accurate and reliable information necessary to make sound managerial decisions."

The *Montana Agricultural Statistics* bulletin is published annually and contains economic information, crop and livestock production, county-level information, Montana's rank, price information, and much more. The cost of the book is $10.00. To receive your copy, contact Montana Agricultural Statistics Service by phone at 1-800-835-2612 or 406-441-1240, by e-mail at nass-mt@nass.usda.gov, or write Montana Agricultural Statistics Service at 10 W. 15th St., Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626.

Agriculture is Montana's largest industry, and it is essential that accurate agricultural data be available to producers, businesses, and agriculturally related industries. The *Montana Agricultural Statistics* bulletin provides information on agriculture to the public. Montana's farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses made this publication possible through their willingness to provide basic agricultural information.

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Montana Hog Inventory Up 9 Percent

For immediate release: December 30, 2002
For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2002 was 185,000 head, 9 percent above a year ago. Breeding stock was up 11 percent from last December to 21,000 head. Market hog numbers increased to 164,000 head, up 9 percent from last year.

There were 38,000 sows farrowed in Montana during the period of December 2001 through November 2002. This was unchanged from a year ago. The number of pigs saved per litter increased slightly to 9.16 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 348,000 head, a 1 percent increase from last year. There were 500 farms with one or more hogs in Montana in 2002, down from 550 farms last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2002, was 58.9 million head. This was 1 percent below December 1, 2001, and 2 percent below September 1, 2002.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from December 1, 2001, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent less than 2001, and 1 percent less than 2000. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.83 pigs saved per litter for the September-November 2002 period, compared to 8.82 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2002-February 2003 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 2 percent above 2001. Intended farrowings for March-May 2003, at 2.85 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 75,350 during 2002, down 7 percent from last year and 13 percent below 2000. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 10 percent of the operations and 75 percent of the inventory. This is the first time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled 75 percent or more of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 2,258, accounted for 53 percent of the total inventory, up from 52 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

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Agricultural Prices Received for November 2002

For immediate release: December 31, 2002
For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612.

November full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with October 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $4.28 per bushel, up $0.22 from the previous month; spring wheat moved down $0.18 to $4.48 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.07 to $5.04 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.01 from the previous month to $2.23, malt barley prices increased $0.02 to $3.09 per bushel. Oat prices increased $0.01 to $2.23 a bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was up $3.00 to $86.00 per ton and all other hay held steady at $75.00 per ton. The mid-December grain prices were mixed from the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $4.05 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.44 per bushel, durum wheat was $5.00 per bushel, feed barley was $2.23 per bushel and malt barley averaged $3.11 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mostly higher then the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $.80 to $81.00 per cwt, while cows fell $1.10 to $33.20. The average price for calves increased $1.20 to $87.40 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $6.50 to $30.90 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $4.70 to $88.80 per cwt. Milk prices fell $0.60 per cwt from last month to $11.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $83.70 per cwt.; cows averaged $35.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $95.80 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $11.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was $4.16, down $0.16, spring wheat was $4.27, down $0.17; durum wheat was $4.53, up $0.10; the all barley price was $2.79, up $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were $72.00, up $3.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was $3.83 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.00 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.25 per bushel, all wheat was $3.93 per bushel, malt barley was $3.13 per bushel, feed barley was $2.29 per bushel, and all barley was $2.85. Steer and heifer prices were $74.80 per cwt, cow prices were $34.20, calves were $93.60 per cwt., all hog prices were $30.00 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.679 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December is 97, based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for wheat, lettuce, broccoli, and eggs more than offset higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, hogs, and strawberries. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn offset increased marketings of wheat, tobacco, milk, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.3 percent) above December, 2001. Higher prices for soybeans, wheat, corn, and cattle more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, lettuce, calves, and dry beans.

The Food Commodities Index declined 1 point (1.0 percent) from last month to 96, but is 2.1 percent above November last year.

#end#